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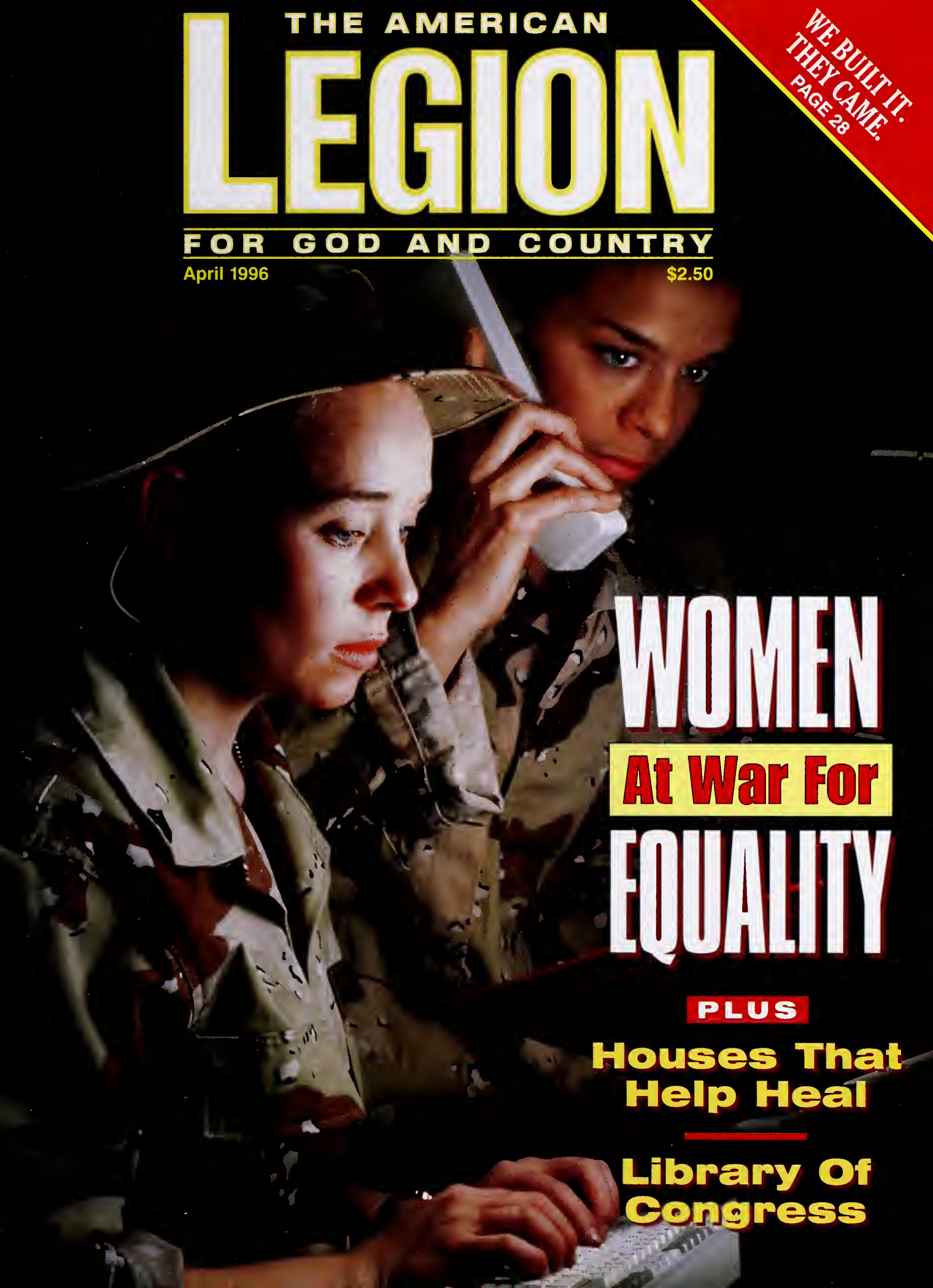

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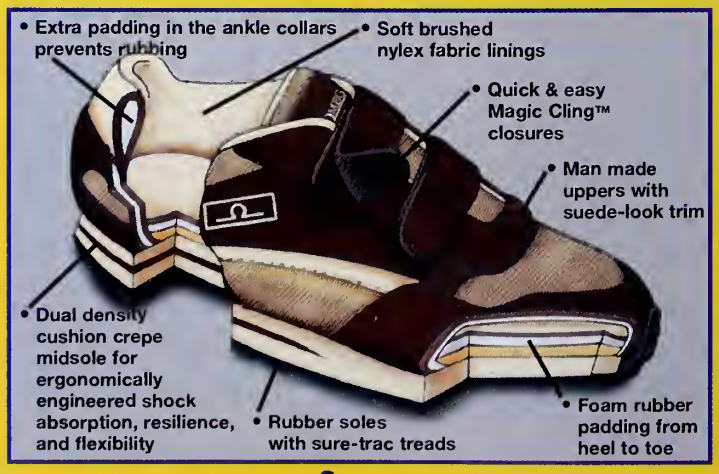

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THE AMERICAN
LEGION
The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 140, No. 4 April 1996

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.9 million members. These military-service veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.

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Hire Authority

I must point out that your recent article, "With Preferences Like These..." (January), contains factual errors, half-truths and misinformation.

The article is wrong to say that veterans comprise only 20.7 percent of the Federal work force; the actual share is 28 percent. During the past 10 years, the hiring rate for 30 percent disabled veterans rose from 1.0 percent to 1.5 percent—a 50-percent increase—and for Vietnam-era veterans, it rose from 15.6 percent to 16.7 percent. In an era when the total veteran population is declining and government is downsizing, these are achievements we should all take pride in.

The article cites an error made by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in rating the qualifications of Mr. John Minnick for a position with the National Holocaust Museum. OPM later admitted its error and gave Mr. Minnick priority consideration for an equivalent position. This was an extremely rare case.

The article wrongly charges that equal employment opportunity laws are at odds with Veterans Preference laws. There is simply no evidence that veterans have been discriminated against as a class or that they are under-represented in the Federal work force, as compared to the civilian labor force.

The article cites the case of John L. Davis, a civilian employee with the Army Corps of Engineers, who it should be noted took full advantage of his right to appeal RIF separation from the Department of the Army. Furthermore, the article failed to mention that the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the board that Mr. Davis' rights had not been violated.

Again, my thanks for the Legion's ongoing hard work for all of America's veterans.

James B. King, Director
United States Office of Personnel Management

Editor's note: This is an edited excerpt from Mr. King's three-page letter to THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

It should be mentioned that at press time, John Minnick had yet to be offered any position within the federal government.

"With Preferences Like These...," THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE has again performed a valuable journalistic service for veterans and their families.

As someone who has been on the receiving end of the administration's shameless and vicious attacks on Veterans Preference in the workplace, let me say that Mr. Scharnberg has presented the subject in a manner that is both accurate and easy to comprehend.

I also ask that The American Legion leadership continue to work with Congress to remove the loopholes from the existing Veterans Preference laws.

John L. Davis
Springfield, Va.

Editor's note: The above letter is from the same Mr. Davis mentioned in both the article and Mr. King's letter. He no longer works for the federal government.

Star Watch

I was rather concerned over the tiny article, "Stars Named For Child Victims," in January's Legion News. While the intentions of Post 502 are certainly admirable in memorializing the 19 children killed in the Oklahoma City federal building bombing, the Post's intentions are not being carried out.

Companies selling star names are simply providing a "novelty" service. Although the service provides a nice gift or conversation piece, these operations have neither the right nor the ability to officially name stars. Official naming of stars is only done by international convention and is never done for monetary considerations. In other words: No one can buy the rights to officially name a star. I bring this to your attention because I would not want other veterans to spend their money believing they really are naming a star in honor or memory. What they are buying is simply a pretty certificate.

Stephen A. Karon
Executive Director
Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology
Syracuse, N.Y.

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE welcomes letters to the editor concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include your address and a daytime phone number for verification. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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Flag Correction

In Veterans Update (January) we reported that veterans were entitled to a flag flown over the nation's capital when they are buried. They are entitled to an American flag. However, the only way to obtain a flag flown over the capital is by contacting your congressman or senator and you may have to pay for it.

Right Stuff

I fail to see the purpose of "The $60,000 Cat" (February 1996). When adults are unable to follow the rules they have agreed to follow, why does this necessitate an article that basically condemns homeowner associations (HOAs)? When I purchased the home I now live in, I was required to read the covenants of the HOA and to sign a document indicating not only that I had read the covenants, but that I agreed to abide by them.

I am not happy with some of the covenant requirements of my development, but in signing the agreement, I gave up some of my constitutional rights, just as I did when I joined the military service.

T.T. Palmer
Annapolis, Md.

Update Update

Regarding the article, "VA Declares Its Priorities: Chips Before Checks" (Veterans Update, February), I don't

Please turn page

"I HAD A TOUGH TIME GOING THE DISTANCE."

Every time I traveled someplace, I was worried about finding a bathroom so I could urinate. It was frustrating.

I saw my doctor, and he told me I was having the symptoms of a prostate condition called BPH. He prescribed **HYTRIN® CAPSULES**. And guess what?

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Are *you* a man over 50 with urinary discomforts? Do you urinate often during the day or night? Is your urine stream difficult to start? Is it weak or interrupted? Does your bladder feel as if it isn't emptying completely?

If so, see your doctor. Your doctor can determine whether you have symptomatic BPH (or other conditions such as prostate cancer). Your doctor can also explain the different treatment options for symptomatic BPH: surgery; "watchful waiting," which consists of having regular checkups over time; and oral medications such as HYTRIN.

HYTRIN can cause a sudden drop in blood pressure at the beginning of treatment (or if you miss doses and then start taking the medication again). You may feel dizzy, faint, or "light-headed," particularly after getting up from a chair or bed.

Talk with your doctor today about symptomatic BPH and HYTRIN.

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Please read this leaflet before you start taking HYTRIN. Also, read it each time you get a new prescription. This is a summary and should NOT take the place of a full discussion with your doctor who has additional information about HYTRIN. You and your doctor should discuss HYTRIN and your condition before you start taking it and at your regular check-ups.

HYTRIN is used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension). HYTRIN is also used to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) in men. This leaflet describes HYTRIN as a treatment for hypertension or BPH.

What is hypertension (high blood pressure)?

Blood pressure is the tension of the blood within the blood vessels. If blood is pumped too forcefully, or if the blood vessels are too narrow, the pressure of the blood against the walls of the vessels rises.

If high blood pressure is not treated, over time, the increased pressure can damage blood vessels or it can cause the heart to work too hard and may decrease the flow of blood to the heart, brain, and kidneys. As a result, these organs may become damaged and not function correctly. If high blood pressure is controlled, this damage is less likely to happen.

Treatment options for hypertension

Non-drug treatments are sometimes effective in controlling mild hypertension. The most important lifestyle changes to lower blood pressure are to lose weight, reduce salt, fat, and alcohol in the diet, quit smoking, and exercise regularly. However, many hypertensive patients require one or more ongoing medications to control their blood pressure. There are different kinds of medications used to treat hypertension. You doctor has prescribed HYTRIN for you.

What HYTRIN does to treat hypertension

HYTRIN works by relaxing blood vessels so that blood passes through them more easily. This helps to lower blood pressure.

What is BPH?

The prostate is a gland located below the bladder of men. It surrounds the urethra (you-REETH-rah), which is a tube that drains urine from the bladder. BPH is an enlargement of the prostate gland. The symptoms of BPH, however, can be caused by an increase in the tightness of muscles in the prostate. If the muscles inside the prostate tighten, they can squeeze the urethra and slow the flow of urine. This can lead to symptoms such as:

- a weak or interrupted stream when urinating
- a feeling that you cannot empty your bladder completely
- a feeling of delay when you start to urinate
- a need to urinate often, especially at night, or
- a feeling that you must urinate right away.

Treatment options for BPH

There are three main treatment options for BPH:

- Program of monitoring or "Watchful Waiting". Some men have an enlarged prostate gland, but no symptoms, or symptoms that are not bothersome. If this applies, you and your doctor may decide on a program of monitoring including regular checkups, instead of medication or surgery.
- Medication. There are different kinds of medication used to treat BPH. Your doctor has prescribed HYTRIN for you. See "What HYTRIN does to treat BPH" below.
- Surgery. Some patients may need surgery. Your doctor can describe several different surgical procedures to treat BPH. Which procedure is best depends on your symptoms and medical condition.

What HYTRIN does to treat BPH

HYTRIN relaxes the tightness of a certain type of muscle in the prostate and at the opening of the bladder. This may increase the rate of urine flow and/or decrease the symptoms you are having.

- HYTRIN helps relieve the symptoms of BPH. It does NOT change the size of the prostate, which may continue to grow. However, a larger prostate does not necessarily cause more or worse symptoms.
- If HYTRIN is helping you, you should notice an effect on your particular symptoms in 2 to 4 weeks of starting to take the medication.
- Even though you take HYTRIN and it may help you, HYTRIN may not prevent the need for surgery in the future.

Other important facts about HYTRIN for BPH

- You should see an effect on your symptoms in 2 to 4 weeks. So, you will need to continue seeing your doctor to check your progress regarding your BPH and to monitor your blood pressure in addition to your other regular check-ups.
- Your doctor has prescribed HYTRIN for your BPH and not for prostate cancer. However, a man can have BPH and prostate cancer at the same time. Doctors usually recommend that men be checked for prostate cancer once a year when they turn 50 (or 40 if a family member has had prostate cancer). These checks should continue even if you are taking HYTRIN. HYTRIN is not a treatment for prostate cancer.
- About Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA). Your doctor may have done a blood test called PSA. Your doctor is aware that HYTRIN does not affect PSA levels. You may want to ask your doctor more about this if you have had a PSA test done.

What you should know while taking HYTRIN for hypertension or BPH

WARNINGS

HYTRIN Can Cause A Sudden Drop in Blood Pressure After the VERY FIRST DOSE. You may feel dizzy, faint, or "light-headed" particularly after you get up from bed or from a chair. This is more likely to occur after you've taken the first few doses, but can occur at any time while you are taking the drug. It can also occur if you stop taking the drug and then re-start treatment.

Because of this effect, your doctor may have told you to take HYTRIN at bedtime. If you take HYTRIN at bedtime but need to get up from bed to go to the bathroom, get up slowly and cautiously until you are sure how the medicine affects you. It is also important to get up slowly from a chair or bed at any time until you learn how you react to HYTRIN. You should not drive or do any hazardous tasks until you are used to the effects of the medication. If you begin to feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you feel better.

- You will start with a 1 mg dose of HYTRIN. Then the dose will be increased as your body gets used to the effect of the medication.
- Other side effects you could have while taking HYTRIN include drowsiness, blurred or hazy vision, nausea, or "puffiness" of the feet or hands. Discuss any unexpected effects you notice with your doctor.

How to take HYTRIN

Follow your doctor's instructions about how to take HYTRIN. You must take it every day at the dose prescribed. Talk with your doctor if you don't take it for a few days, you may have to restart it at a 1 mg dose and be cautious about possible dizziness. Do not share HYTRIN with anyone else; it was prescribed only for you.

Keep HYTRIN and all medicines out of the reach of children.
Store capsules between 68-77°F (20-25°C).
Protect from light and moisture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HYTRIN AND HYPERTENSION OR BPH, TALK WITH YOUR DOCTOR, NURSE, PHARMACIST OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

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VETVOICE

think we can use VA as a scapegoat on this one. Federal laws regulate the use of appropriated funds.

Money approved for spending by Congress can only be used for the purpose for which it was appropriated, i.e. defense, CIA, FBI, etc. Use for other purposes can lead to federal charges and prosecution. Canteen workers are paid from nonappropriated funds, which do not rely on the federal budget. The money is generated from activity outside the function of Congress and is basically self-sustaining.

I don't agree with all the applications of nonappropriated funds, but I feel their use in a VA hospital is entirely appropriate. Where else can an inpatient get shaving supplies, writing materials or snacks?

David Jones
Lost Nation, Iowa

Female Feedback

I hope "You've Come A Long Way, Maybe" (February 1996) doesn't give a false impression of the Cincinnati VA Hospital. I have been going there for 15 years and can't say enough good things about the staff. The personnel and the care I receive have been the best.

Dorothy F. Rolf
Newport, Ky.

Your February "You've Come A Long Way, Maybe" about VA care for women veterans was very interesting. Personally, I would see my local veterinarian before I would go to VA.

Gloria Radics
Clovis, Calif.

Wage Rage

The issue that proponents of minimum wage (Big Issues, February) never address is, if increasing the minimum will reduce the number of people in poverty, why not increase it to $15 an hour and eliminate poverty entirely?

I don't mean to be glib, but the liberal wing of Congress still doesn't get it. They have wrecked their constituents' financial wherewithal by their giveaway programs for the sake of a few votes. They are doing us no favors by tinkering with the natural economic laws of supply and demand.

Richard H. Gerding
St. Louis, Mo. ☐

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ROTOR BLADES from a chopper could be heard slicing at the wind, creating the subtle but appropriate atmosphere for the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in 1993. Hundreds of Vietnam veterans knew this sound all too well, especially nurses who had to treat the wounded and comfort the dying flown into their mobile hospitals.

"I am still bothered by the sound of helicopters," said retired Army Lt. Col. P. Evangeline Jamison, a nurse in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Legionnaire Diane Carlson Evans, chair and founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, added: "At a time when joining the military was unpopular, 265,000 women volunteered to support our troops in Vietnam, 10,000 of them serving in-country."

At the closing of the dedication, Jamison looked at the site where the Vietnam Women's memorial now stands, some 300 feet from The Wall, and smiled. "This is a first step in recognizing those who fought in Vietnam—all the people—men and women," she said.

Women serving in our military is nothing new; they have been called upon in many conflicts, from the American Revolution to Bosnia. Women were also in some of the smaller operations such as Grenada, Panama, Somalia and Haiti.

Like men, they pay a steep price for service. Like men, they are touched and haunted by the costs of war.

Although the women's memorial is a great tribute, America must take many more steps until women are given the credit they deserve for their role in protecting and defending our nation in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces. Women are now an essential part of our military, accounting for 12.7 percent of active duty forces and 14.3 percent of the Reserves. They must be given respect and fair treatment.

Nat'l. Cmdr. Daniel A. Ludwig

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, some 48,790 women were deployed to the Persian Gulf theater of operations, constituting 7 percent of those in the war zone. If anyone needed an illustration of the price women pay in the service of our country, the outbreak of Desert Storm illness symptoms among thousands of female gulf veterans is a harsh eye-opening discovery.

Some 6,200 women veterans of the Gulf War have sought medical exams from the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for what many believe to be symptoms of a mysterious ailment.

"This number includes all illnesses, so it would not be accurate to say that they all suffer from Gulf War Syndrome," cautions Matthew L. Puglisi, director of The American Legion's Persian Gulf Task Force. "We are pushing for studies that could give us a good idea what we're dealing with."

Established in 1995 to help ill Gulf War veterans receive compensation and treatment, the task force is very concerned with women's health care. In fact, it has asked VA to over-represent women in its epidemiological studies. (If only 7 percent of Gulf War veterans are women, and only 7 percent of the research involves women, they will not get accurate results.) VA has listened to our task force, and women are being given the consideration they are due.

All of America and everyone in uniform needs to do what The American Legion has done: recognize that women in the military have different health-care needs and must be given the best care available.

But there is more to giving women the credit they deserve than memorials and medicine. They must be treated fairly while in the service too. In this month's issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, Chandra Czape chronicles military women's struggle for respect in "She Served Too..." on page 20.

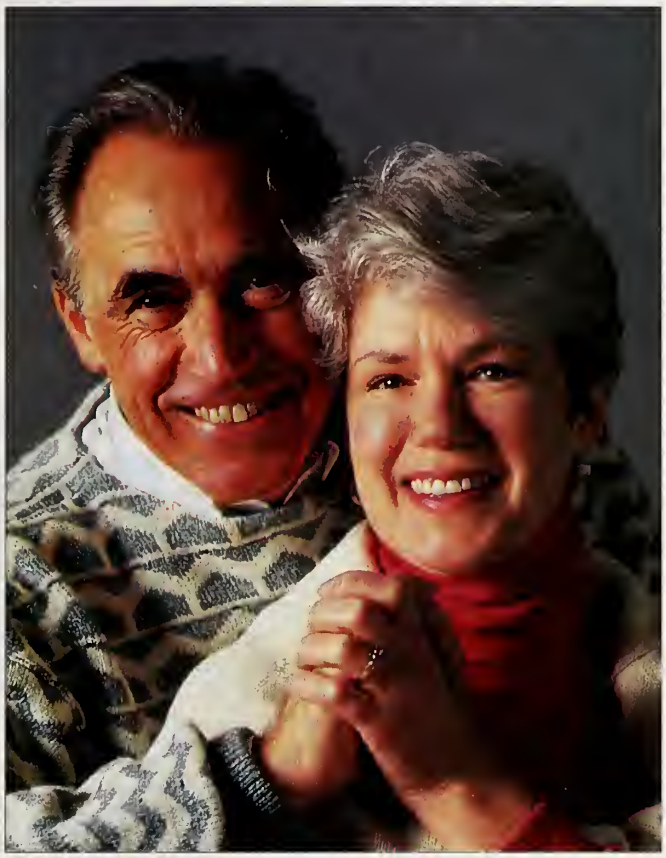
"The Gulf War showed very clearly that women were good enough to die," Navy Capt. Rosemary Mariner says in the article. In fact, 16 women died during the war and two were taken prisoners of war.

We are very fortunate to have brave men and women who have equally contributed to the national security of our country. Just as women have shared the burden, we must let them share in the praise.

Finally, I turn to another subject of vital importance to us all: the youth of America. Since April is traditionally Children & Youth month within The American Legion, it is fitting that this issue of the magazine presents, among other related themes, the remarkable story of how local Legionnaires turned a 30-acre wasteland into a neighborhood treasure for the young athletes of Brooklyn, N.Y. I hope that you will read "A Field of Their Own," page 28, with a deep sense of pride in what your fellow Legionnaires accomplished. It demonstrates the good that all of us are capable of if we put our hearts and minds to it. □

Attention Veterans

A Dental Insurance Plan that gives you something else to smile about.



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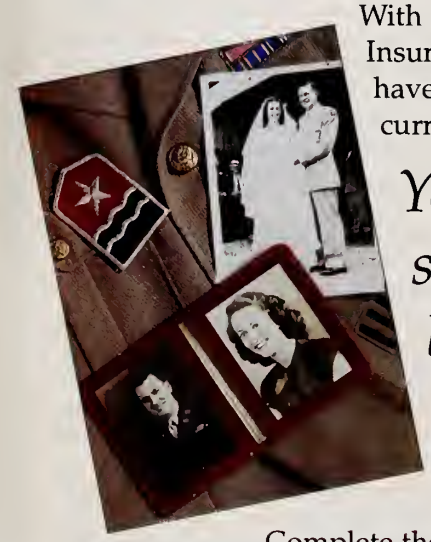

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SHOULD CONGRESS REPLACE THE DOLLAR BILL WITH A COIN?

Sen. Rod Grams (R-Minnesota)

YES

On Nov. 17, 1995, the U.S. House and Senate passed an extraordinary piece of legislation—the "Balanced Budget Act of 1995." It was the culmination of a promise we made to the people last November when we said we'd take this country in a better direction if they elected a new majority to Congress. The "Balanced Budget Act of 1995" is proof that there is a better way, and its centerpiece is our promise to balance the budget by 2002.

We're now tackling the hard choices we must make to eliminate the deficit, which means improving the way government conducts the business of the people and carries out our responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner possible. One simple way to accomplish both goals, while moving toward a balanced budget, is to switch from using $1 bills to $1 coins, which I introduced this year as legislation titled the "One Dollar Coin Act."

Nearly every study shows that the "One Dollar Coin Act" would save taxpayers dollars. For example, the Federal Reserve Board estimates that because of reduced printing costs, the $1 coin would save $456 million each year. And along with its fiscal rewards, consumers will appreciate the convenience of the coin when it comes to using pop machines, laundry machines and parking meters.

Another group of Americans who would benefit from the switch are those who suffer from a visual disability. Our legislation is a major step forward for these Americans who run the risk every day of accidentally spending a large bill or of being cheated when receiving change.

Every major industrial nation has already switched to high-denomination coins. In fact, Canada has experienced so much success with its $1 coin, the "loonie," that it's now in the process of issuing a $2 coin as well.

A new survey shows that once the American people learn that replacing $1 bills with coins will save substantial amounts of money and move this nation closer to a balanced budget, they support our legislation by a nearly 3-to-1 margin. The "One Dollar Coin Act" is an excellent opportunity to deliver the real change that was demanded by the voters last November: To root out waste and abuse in the federal government, improve efficiency, and most importantly, help balance the budget. □

Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II (D-Massachusetts)

NO

Overshadowed by the debate over the budget is a "lifestyle" discussion that will affect each and every one of us. Do we maintain our $1 bill or do we create a $1 coin to replace it?

Let's examine the merits of replacing the $1 bill with a newly minted $1 coin. First and foremost, we have to look at the projected costs of this currency change, as well as any savings associated with it.

It is true that coins would far outlast paper bills, thus lowering circulation costs slightly. However, the savings would be offset over the near term by the costs of removing paper currency from circulation—a major waste of the current stock of paper bills. In addition, the U.S. Mint, which is on record as opposing a switch to the $1 coin, has reported it will take considerable time and expense to get the new coin into circulation. Even after necessary production capacity is achieved, the federal government would have to undertake an expensive campaign to market and promote the coin to the general public.

Producing and promoting the coin would cost taxpayers $22 million over five years, the U.S. Mint reports. These upfront costs mean any potential savings would not come for a long time. The final factor that would affect savings from the $1 coin is technological advancements. Cash is rapidly being replaced in everyday financial transactions by credit cards, debit cards, transaction cards and automatic withdrawals. The question of what kind of currency we use will become less and less important.

The American people overwhelmingly prefer the $1 bill. A Gallup poll in June 1995 showed that 77 percent of the public opposes replacing the $1 bill with a coin. Most people prefer the bill's light weight, are familiar with it, and see it as the basic unit of our currency.

The Director of the Mint believes that if the American people are forced to give up the $1 bill, they'll simply switch to the $2 bill. In 1979, the government made an effort to issue the Susan B. Anthony dollar, and earlier, the Dwight D. Eisenhower dollar. Both moves failed because of the public's negative reaction. Some $300 million worth of unwanted Anthony coins are stacked away in the Mint.

For the taxpaying general public, the $1 coin is not a good deal at all. □

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT, TOO

Senators and Representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Or, you may call the U.S. Senate at: (202) 224-3121; and the House at (202) 225-3121.

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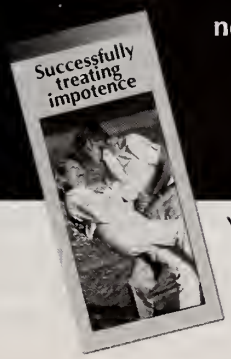

Your free kit details all the treatment options available to you. And because it is important that you visit a physician experienced in treating impotence, we'll also provide you with the names of specialists in your area. Your privacy is assured.

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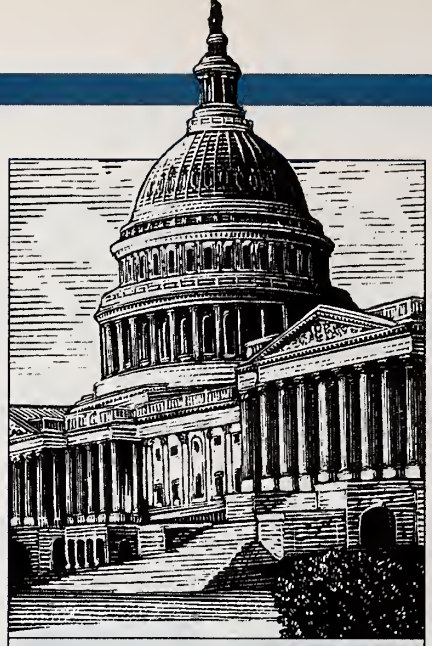

WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

The 'Rash Card'

Army veteran Timothy McVeigh may use Persian Gulf War Syndrome as a defense against charges he blew up the federal building in Oklahoma City. This is the belief of Aubrey J. Leager, who says he has been in contact with associates of McVeigh's lawyer, Stephen Jones, and is on "stand-by" as a witness in the case.

An Air Force veteran, Leager suspects that he and McVeigh have something in common—exposure to biological warfare agents.

Leager says he has been diagnosed with an infection called mycoplasma—the same problem Dr. Garth L. Nicholson says is showing up in most cases of Gulf War Syndrome. The difference is that Leager believes he was infected about 20 years ago as part of an experimental vaccine program.

The General Accounting Office has estimated that at least 500,000 people were subjected to federally sponsored radiation, biological and chemical experiments from 1940-1974.

Leager says symptoms of the infection can include personality changes, aggression, stress and pain. McVeigh, showing evidence of a rash, reportedly requested compensation for Gulf War Syndrome in 1992 and was turned away.

U.N.-desirable

It sounds like a bookkeeping problem: Is the U.S. deployment of several hundred Army soldiers to the U.N. operation in Macedonia conducted under Chapter VI of the U.N. charter having to do with the "settlement of disputes" or Chapter VII, concerning "threats to the peace."

The answer to this seemingly esoteric question may determine whether Army Specialist Michael New eventually wins his case in the civilian courts.

New recently was given a bad conduct discharge for refusing to wear U.N. symbols on his Army uniform and report to a U.N. commander. But his lawyers, led by retired Marine Col. Ron Ray, contend the Macedonia operation has not been approved by Congress as a Chapter VII operation under the terms of the U.N. Participation Act and is therefore illegal.

The Army counters that Macedonia is a Chapter VI operation that didn't require congressional approval. New's lawyers, pressing their case in the courts, have assembled all 97 U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the former Yugoslavia, including Macedonia. None refers to Chapter VI. All, however, do refer to Chapter VII.

To justify the operation, New's lawyers insist, the Army must find at least one specific U.N. resolution which states that the mandate for the Macedonia operation is Chapter VI of the U.N. Charter.

Three's Company

Ross Perot isn't the only one planning a third-party presidential campaign this year. Charles Collins, a businessman, has chosen the independent route after getting shunned by the GOP, and Harry Browne, the author of numerous financial books, is running on the Libertarian ticket.

Browne, though, has the advantage of a timely book, *Why Government Doesn't Work* (St. Martin's Press), in which he cites a Gallup Poll showing that 60 percent of Americans want a third party in the 1996 presidential race. Collins and Browne agree on one thing: removing U.S. military forces from foreign soil.

The difference is that Collins wants to use those troops to protect and patrol our borders and stop the drug trade, while Browne says he favors the legalization of drugs.

They also agree on repealing the federal income tax. They're both opposed to abortion, but Collins supports repealing the court decision legalizing abortion and Browne wants the government to stay out of it.

A Farewell To Arms?

Fearing the demise of NATO, British defense experts are alarmed by the rapid moves toward establishment of a European Army. "The Atlantic Alliance is the rock of our defense policy," declared British defense secretary Michael Portillo in a major speech. "Britain will not join a European Army," he added.

To solidify its ties with the United States, Britain has made several recent major purchases of U.S. weapons, including Tomahawk cruise missiles and Apache attack helicopters. Germany and France are moving in the opposite direction, having set up a joint procurement agency to purchase arms.

The Franco-German Tiger helicopter is already a reality and the two countries plan to build transport aircraft and armored personnel carriers.

Tax-Exempt Terrorism

Security experts fear that a much-publicized "covert" operation against Iran could backfire, leading to terrorist attacks on Americans. The anti-Iranian operation was conceived by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and reportedly is costing the CIA $18 million. Former top FBI official Oliver Revell says Iranian-sponsored radical Islamic groups such as Hizbullah and Hamas are "presently represented" in the United States, and that Hamas has even established tax-exempt front groups that collect funds. "The American taxpayer, ironically, is subsidizing militant organizations that support terrorist groups," he says.

In an article in the *Middle East Quarterly*, Revell said a public television program unearthed details about pro-Iranian terrorists in the United States that his own FBI failed to uncover. There's a "major gap in U.S. defenses against terrorism," he conceded. □

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events *and other publications.*

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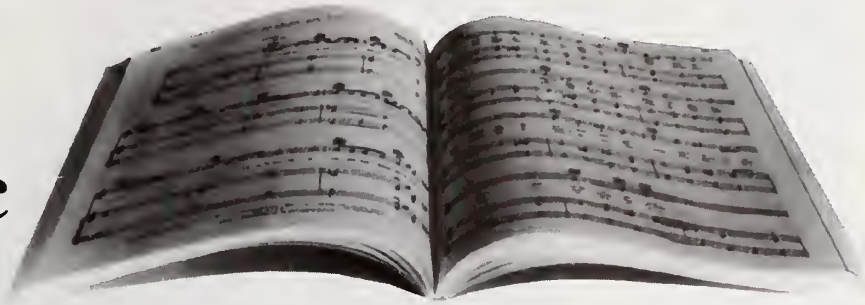

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ON DUTY

IRS EXTENDS DEADLINE

WALKING the point to maintain a fragile peace and uncovering land mines may be taxing our troops in Bosnia, but the IRS won't be, at least for a little while. Service members in Bosnia after Feb. 29 will get an automatic extension to file their 1995 tax returns.

They have until Dec. 15, 1996, to file their returns instead of the annual April 15 deadline. This means the IRS cannot take any action against the troops, nor can it charge them penalties for taxes owed for 1995.

Deployed forces also may get an added boost from Congress if legislation introduced by Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri is passed. Skelton wants to have Bosnia declared a combat zone.

Under his plan, service members would be exempt from federal income taxes on a large share, or all of the income, earned during their deployment.

FAMILY HELP

THE LEGION's Family Support Network is ready to help the families of some 20,000 troops sent to Bosnia for peacekeeping. A 24-hour, toll-free number, 1-800-504-4098, can mobilize the Legion family to assist GIs and their families with short-term financial assistance or other emergencies.

SINGLES VS. MARRIED

DESPITE efforts to balance the scales, single people in the military still pull more than their share of "hey, you!" work details, simply because they live and work in the same place.

The married-vs.-single issue in military life won't go away, nor will either side change its point of view.

"Three hots and a cot" used to be enough for any soldier or sailor, but quality of life issues, including housing allowances for married people, continue to be hot-button items in today's military.

"Only the government can seem to get away paying single GIs so little because it's definitely not equal pay for equal work," says Sydney Hickey, associate director of government relations for the National Military Family Association.

"On the other hand, service members with families argue that the Basic Allowance for Quarters and variable housing allowance seldom cover housing expenses," says Hickey.

The services are moving to redress the on-base living problems for unmarried enlisted. The Navy alone plans to spend $370 million by 2004 to improve its bachelor quarters.

HELP US HELP AMERICA

BECAUSE you are on duty for America, The American Legion is on duty for you.

To find out more about us and to join our ranks, write:

The American Legion
Internal Affairs
(Membership)
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

NAVY RELIEF SCHOLARSHIPS

NAVY personnel and Marines on active duty with children heading to college may be eligible for the Travers Scholarship and Loan Program. The scholarship grants students up to $2,000 for each academic year; the loan program provides an interest-free loan of up to $3,000.

The awards, administered through the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, are based on financial need.

Applications are available at your nearest Society offices, or by writing: Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Headquarters, Education Department, 801 N. Randolph St., Suite 1228, Arlington, VA 22203.

NEW MEDAL FOR PEACEKEEPING

MILITARY men and women involved in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and other areas around the world may be eligible for the new Armed Forces Service Medal.

The medal, authorized by President Bill Clinton in January, will be awarded to members of the armed forces who, after June 1, 1992, take part in military operations deemed a "significant activity."

The executive order describing the medal doesn't use the word, "peacekeeping," but stipulates that eligibility is based on "no foreign armed opposition or imminent hostile action."

In the medal pecking order, the Armed Forces Service Medal precedes the Humanitarian Service Medal, says a Pentagon spokesman.

IN THE NEWS

LEGISLATION is being introduced by Sen. Bob Dole and 100 other congressmen to make it illegal for U.S. military personnel to wear U.N. insignia.... Without $50 billion to $60 billion more for weapon modernization, Defense Secretary William Perry says U.S. forces must be cut further.... DoD plans to spend $12 billion to destroy its chemical weapon stockpile.... Russia is building facilities to destroy its chemical weapons.... The Army has spent $780 million in Bosnia so far.... C-17 airlifters are on DoD's wish list to improve airlift capability.... Russia has complained to NATO about a U.S. Navy SEAL exercise in Norway, claiming it was too close to its borders.... A German foreign office report claims Russia is incapable of projecting its military power beyond its borders.... A central imagery bank that would combine all DoD intelligence has been proposed to Congress.... The Coast Guard has a new policy making it against regulations for men and women on the same cutter to have romantic relationships. □

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*** Plus $ 4.95 per watch for Shipping and Handling. PA residents add $6.00 sales tax.**

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A SAFETY NET FOR KIDS

The American Legion and the National Crime Prevention Council unite to protect our children and 'Take a Bite Out of Crime.'

THE SECOND grader sensed danger when two strangers in a car pulled to the curb and began asking her for directions. One of them beckoned the girl to come closer, but she remained at arm's length, then suddenly ran away in the opposite direction the car was headed. The girl quickly pounded on a neighbor's door as the car sped away.

Thankfully, the girl had remembered advice a local crime prevention officer gave her, and lessons she learned in the McGruff Safe Kids Program at her school in Blaine, Minn.

In an effort to ensure that more kids know what to do when their safety is threatened, The American Legion and the National Crime Prevention Council have joined forces in a nationwide project to bring the council's McGruff Safe Kids Program into more schools.

McGruff the Crime Dog is the trench-coated canine mascot who urges youngsters to follow a few common sense tips in the public campaign to "Take a Bite Out of Crime." In conjunction with McGruff's visits to schools, Legionnaires will be working with the mascot and local law enforcement agencies to prevent crime and protect children. The pact was appropriately announced in April, nationally designated Children & Youth Month by The American Legion.

"The council approached us with this program because they did their homework and found out The American Legion has a committed core of volunteers and a solid tradition of service to the communities our Posts serve," says Elmer Fuhrhop, chairman of the National Commission on Children & Youth.

JOHN E. SIMON

CRIME DOG—*Second graders Sierra and Suprina Austill are introduced to McGruff by Indiana's Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey.*

For the past three years, the National Crime Prevention Council searched for a fraternal organization that could help it educate the 33 million American children between the ages 4-12. The council selected the Legion because of its many children's programs and its obvious concern for their welfare.

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates 114,600 attempted child abductions occur each year; tragically, 4,600 succeed. In an average year, 500,000 "serious incidents" are reported involving kids who run away from home or become lost. Most pitiful are children simply discarded and left to the not-so-tender mercies of street predators.

This association is a win-win proposition, says Louis G. Dominguez, director of McGruff's National Licensing program.

"This association with the Legion brings us a grassroots presence in over 15,000 communities across the nation. It's also an enormous opportunity for Legionnaires to show leadership among other organizations in their communities on behalf of kids," says Dominguez, 60, a Legionnaire from Post 141, Gainesville, Va.

Posts are natural rallying points for the McGruff Safe Kids Program. Legionnaires' commitment to young people are demonstrated by such involvement in National Family Week, child immunization programs and efforts to curb the twin tragedies of teen suicide and juvenile delinquency.

Posts are encouraged to distribute copies of the McGruff Safe Kids Identification Kit to school children in the target age group of 4-12.

The kit contains personal safety tips kids can follow to avoid trouble from strangers; what kids should do in an emergency, an informative section addressed to parents; and a fingerprint kit. Also in the kit will be information on The American Legion and its priorities and programs.

In its appeal to the Posts, The American Legion hopes to duplicate results from a 1993 prototype project led by Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of Post 1254 in Binghampton, N.Y.

Purchasing 1,250 Safe Kids identification kits, the Post gained permission from educators and parents to distribute them at four local elementary schools. The response was so positive a local radio station and food store sponsored their own "Safe Kids Day" in Binghampton.

For more information about obtaining kits or McGruff promotional material, contact your Department, or write to: McGruff Safe Kids, P.O. Box 931, Wayzata, MN 55391; (800) 288-3344. □

—By Anthony Miller

AMISH MEDICAL CURES... WHAT DOCTORS DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW!

Proven Natural Remedies To Cure Headaches, Heart Problems, Ulcer, Prostate, Diabetes, Liver, Stomach, High Blood Pressure, Poor Circulation

Imagine! Starting today your life can be disease free. Did you know that Amish medicine really is superior to today's medicine? The plain truth is that since doctors don't make money for recommending it, they don't want you to know about it. The Amish remedies work without costly drugs and their dangerous side effects, and that's important to you. Why would you want to see a doctor and receive treatment only to be bothered by troublesome side effects for months or even years? Amish remedies are more natural and far superior because they actually work by quickly building up your immune system so you feel healthier and stronger than ever before. They did this even before doctors knew we had an immune system or its importance. The Amish remedies are designed to enrich your life. These treatments are completely natural and safe to use, and are very easy to prepare. Now you can enjoy the wonderful experience of having good health again.

You'll discover that combining a few of the right ingredients will result in amazing, fast-working home remedies for you, eliminating the fear we all have of seeing a doctor. For example, suppose you had a back problem. Did you know that the

Amish have a simple effective technique that they use to draw out the pain quickly? You will find a trusted home remedy for lowering your blood pressure by blending a few natural ingredients into a delicious tea mixture. There are also recommended treatments for burns that relieve the pain almost instantaneously. You'll learn about a wild cherry bark that gives you long lasting relief from asthma. A vinegar solution that cures pneumonia. There's also a tasty fruit you can eat that prevents you from getting the flu. Experience a little known special root whose juices relieve gallstones and gall bladder attacks. We will reveal the secrets of a century-old brew that soothes upset stomachs and relieves diarrhea. You will discover these and many more miracle

- **Cures Health Problems**
- **No Side Effects**
- **Drug Free**
- **It's Safe & Natural**
- **Saves You Money**

Amish folk medicines that have been handed down from generation to generation. The Amish have simple solutions which not only bring you a great deal of comfort, but are known to heal or prevent many of today's health problems.The natural treatments the Amish rely on really are better and healthier for you, and we couldn't say it if it wasn't the absolute truth. Our expert research team has put together in a hassle free, easy-to-follow language, "The Wonders of Amish Medicines". So now you have the luxury of using these time-tested remedies in the convenience of your own home while being in control of your own life.

Here's What It Can Do For You

- **Headache** - Learn about a tea that will effectively eliminates your headache problems.
- **Ulcers** - The Amish swear by this easy-to-do, sure-fire method.
- **Heart Problems** - A time honored brew that does wonders for a weak heart.
- **Prostate** - Discover an easy method to heal prostate problems.

- **Diabetes** - Enjoy a food that is great for treating diabetes.
- **Stomach Problems** - A natural drink that will instantly soothes an upset stomach.
- **High Blood Pressure** - A home remedy of natural ingredients that when blended together, tastes delicious and quickly lowers blood pressure.
- **Liver Problems** - You'll enjoy this remedy; it helps to build up your immune system.
- **Poor Circulation** - A simple-to-take, natural capsule which the Amish have relied on for centuries to improve circulation in adults.
- **Kidney** - A little known root that is the absolute best, it cleans your kidneys.
- **Lungs** - An all-natural vinegar that, when inhaled, is simply wonderful for your lungs.
- **Gallstones & Gall Bladder Attacks** - A special root whose juices quickly relieve attacks.

The Wonders Of Amish Medicines
Comes with a 30 Day Money Back Guarantee If You Not Satisfied

To order "The Wonders Of Amish Medicines" send $5.95 plus $1.50 shipping & handling. Two books for $9.95 plus $2.00 shipping & handling to: Golden Age Products, Inc., Dept. M684, 3038 N.W. 25 Avenue, Pompano Beach, Florida 33069.

Special Advertisement

Revolutionary New Sleep System Breaks The Mattress Mold

Want to feel better during the day? Take a look at what you're sleeping on at night.

America has become a nation of the chronically sleep-deprived. The Better Sleep Council reports that over the past 20 years, we Americans have added around 158 hours, or nearly an entire month each year, to our job schedules. That's not to mention the time we spend working hard to care for our families and homes. Sleep deprivation is caused by both lack of time spent sleeping and poor quality sleep. Sound familiar? Then you owe it to yourself to read on!

SLEEP DEPRIVATION CAN BE DANGEROUS

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, sleep-deprived drivers are vulnerable to "micro-naps" lasting four or five seconds – plenty of time at highway speeds for a fatal crash to occur. Disrupted sleep and sleep disorders cost American businesses billions of dollars annually in lost productivity, industrial accidents and higher medical bills. Lack of sleep also was implicated in the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the space shuttle Challenger disaster and the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island.

Loss of sleep during the night is responsible for increased vulnerability to illness, a tendency to nod off at work the next day, and even loss of creativity and clarity of thinking, say British researchers. Power tools can become dangerous weapons in the hands of someone who is not well rested. And almost everyone is familiar with the physical aches and pains that occur because of poor quality sleep.

DO YOU NEED MORE SLEEP, OR JUST BETTER SLEEP?

On the average, most adults require seven and a half to eight hours of sleep per night, and a full cycle including *deep* sleep is required for us to feel adequately rested in the morning. Any number of factors can interfere with deep, nourishing sleep – including cigarette smoking, worry, a noisy environment and physical discomfort.

Air-cushioned support has been proven to positively affect all three factors that determine the quality of sleep: spinal alignment, pressure points and physiology.

We try remedies from pain medication and sleeping pills, to chiropractic care and self-relaxation techniques in order to get better sleep and rid ourselves of morning aches and pains. But new sleep surface technology offers a simpler solution for many people who toss and turn.

THE FIRST REAL BREAKTHROUGH IN SLEEP SURFACE TECHNOLOGY IN OVER 100 YEARS

Even if you just bought a new bed, you may be sleeping on an antiquated surface! Developed a century ago, innerspring mattresses can create pressure points that interfere with total relaxation. Waterbeds made a big splash in the '60s, but even those labeled "firm" can produce a hammock effect, which can cause the spine to curve unnaturally. Fortunately, a new technology has come through test after test with flying colors: the Select Comfort™ Sleep System.

The Select Comfort adjustable firmness mattress uses air which distributes body weight more evenly and provides better support.

While it looks like a traditional mattress on the outside and even fits standard sheet sizes, the Select Comfort mattress is completely unique on the inside. Air, captured inside innovative "I-beam" chambers, contours to the body, supports the spine, and reduces pressure points by more evenly distributing weight for better sleep.

What's more, each side of the Select Comfort adjustable firmness mattress is independently adjustable – with a remote hand control that digitally tells you the firmness level that's perfect for you. And, you can let air in or out to change the mattress firmness, depending upon how your body feels each night. This is essential for couples, because two people of different shapes and sizes cannot sleep on the same surface and both be as comfortable as they should be to achieve the best possible sleep.

MADE-IN-MINNESOTA QUALITY

Select Comfort adjustable firmness mattresses are manufactured in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and tested for comfort and durability by independent laboratories. Well on its way to becoming a worldwide leader in state-of-the-art sleep systems, Select Comfort currently is the fastest growing company in America's bedding industry, and has earned 22 U.S. patents.

LIGHTWEIGHT AND EASY TO SET UP YOURSELF

The Select Comfort adjustable firmness mattress is so lightweight, it can be delivered via UPS. Following the simple instructions, one person can set up the system at home, usually in 30 minutes or less. An attached electronic air pump fills the mattress with the right amount of air, and then hides out of sight under the bed. Dual controls allow each sleeping partner to adjust the sleep surface to their desired firmness.

TRY SELECT COMFORT AT NO RISK FOR 90 NIGHTS

Thousands of people from coast to coast already own a Select Comfort adjustable firmness mattress. You can try one, too, protected by a "No-Risk 90 Night" guarantee and a 20-year limited product warranty. Call our sleep consultants and ask them about your particular sleep needs. They can answer all your questions and help you better understand how you can benefit from a Select Comfort adjustable firmness mattress.

For a free brochure and introductory video, call 1-800-831-1211, Ext. 6149.

"Comfort, comfort, comfort! In two years sleeping on my Select Comfort mattress I haven't had a single stiff or 'achy breaky' morning backache!"
—Mrs. Shane F., Rio Rancho, NM

Why Back Pain Sufferers Sleep Better On Air.*

*Based on customer feedback.

"I have had rheumatoid arthritis with a crushed vertebra for the past 20 years. During this 20 year period, I was unable to put in a full night of comfortable sleep. I decided to purchase a Select Comfort mattress, sight unseen. After three nights of using this mattress, I never had another pain in my back again. I am now able to sleep very comfortably 6-8 hours every night."
—Eileen E.
Canandaigua, NY

Select Comfort provides proper back support and contours to your body. Weight is more evenly distributed and pressure points are reduced.

Metal coil mattresses can create pressure points and provide uneven support.

See for yourself why the patented Select Comfort adjustable firmness mattress is recommended by the many doctors who use our product. Send for our FREE brochure and demonstration video.

And try our No-Risk 90 Night Trial Program. We're so sure you'll sleep better on air, you can take up to three months to decide or your money back. You've got to sleep on it to believe it!

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She Served, Too. . . .

From the Revolutionary War to Tailhook and beyond, the history of women in the service is one of too much abuse and too little credit.

By Chandra M. Czape

SHE WAS born the same year Jackie Cochran became the first woman to break the sound barrier—1953. It was symbolic, actually, because Navy Capt. Rosemary Mariner would herself later break a number of barriers for military women.

Mariner became the first woman to command an operational aviation squadron, and was among the first of her sex to earn naval aviator's wings.

"In 1975 I was the first woman to start flying jet fighters," says Mariner, who as a girl idolized Cochran and fighter pilot Chuck Yeager, who preceded her to Mach 1. "I was an absolute anomaly. The media didn't know much about women's contributions so they treated everything as new and different."

The media's patronizing attitude toward Mariner should surprise no one. Throughout our history, America often has overlooked servicewomen's contributions and neglected their concerns. The message always seemed to be that women were not good enough or strong enough—in short, "man" enough—to serve their country.

"Society in general has overlooked women's contributions, *period*," says retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, president of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Today, the news for women just

AP/WIDE WORLD

SCWARZ/ARCHIVE PHOTOS

SPOILS OF WAR—Lt. Tanya Brinkley displays an AK-47 assault rifle near Kuwait City. Melissa Nealy (right) holds her mother's hand during a welcome-home ceremony for prisoners of war.

Chandra M. Czape is an Indiana-based writer specializing in women's issues.

FIRST LADY—Then-Navy Cdr. Rosemary Mariner was the first woman to qualify in a high-performance jet aircraft. She was also the first woman to command an operational aviation squadron and among the first women to earn their wings.

COURTESY OF CAPT. R.B. MARINER

"I don't think women get the credit they deserve, and that is much more apparent the higher up you go."

—Lt.Col. Susan Kieffer USAF (Ret.)

GLASS CEILING—Susan Kieffer was the only woman aircraft officer at Charleston AFB, and the highest-ranking female officer at the base when she retired last year.

W. SPEES/MERCURY PICTURES

"As long as women are assumed to be outside the main mission of the military, they will be regarded as second-class citizens."

—Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm USAF (Ret.)

COURTESY OF J. HOLM

entering the service is somewhat better. Women now comprise about 14 percent of today's active-duty forces and their influence can be read in nearly every area of military activity. They maintain aircraft, set sail on combat ships, drop practice bombs, drive trucks and fill many other nontraditional roles. During Desert Storm, women could be seen nightly on TV, huddled right next to their male counterparts, M-16s slung over their shoulders. And they are highly visible in Bosnia, where, among other things, they pilot the huge cargo planes that dispersed GIs and equipment throughout the peacekeeping zone.

Still, it has been a long, hard climb—and few would deny that there are peaks left to be scaled.

Although women have been involved in the military since the Revolution, their fight for changes in policies concerning pregnancy, family life, sexual harassment and advancement began in earnest during World War II. The nearly 400,000 women who joined the armed forces then were hardly received as equals. To begin with, they could not be a part of the mainstream military. Instead, they were relegated to the all-women's units—and even there they were restricted to just 2 percent of the armed forces.

According to retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm, author of *Women in the Military: An Unfinished Revolution*, the services treated enlisted women like immature girls in boarding school, even though the average enlisted woman was three to four years older than the average enlisted man, and many of them were accomplished nurses.

This bias showed up particularly in the armed forces' response to pregnancy. With men and women thrown together in mass numbers for the first time in a military setting, the burden of the inevitable pregnancies came to rest solely with women: If they conceived, they were discharged. Meanwhile, the men who impregnated them would suffer no comparable setback in their careers. Lawrence Korb, a former assistant secretary of defense, is one of many observers who feels the double standard was grossly unfair to the enlisted woman. As he puts it, "Unless it was an immaculate conception, she didn't get pregnant on her own."

"Society-at-large believed that a woman's place was with her family," says Holm, who in 1942 became one of the first women to join the Women's Army Corps. "Especially if she had children. Her career had to be secondary."

Women who got through the war with honorable discharges still were not treated as veterans. The traditionally male Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) didn't know how to adapt to the growing

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INTERVIEW

JAMES H. BILLINGTON

Engine of DEMOCRACY

The Librarian of Congress, director of the world's largest library, discusses how stored knowledge, from books to the Internet, helps America win wars, educate children and prepare for the next century.

IF JAMES H. Billington has his way, Thomas Jefferson's handwritten rough draft of the Declaration of Independence will only be a mouse click away.

Appointed by President Ronald Reagan as the 13th Librarian of Congress, Billington has moved the library at racetrack speed onto the information superhighway. The library's web site already handles a million hits a day. Billington plans to digitize millions more items in the library's vast storehouse, making them available free of charge via computer to people all over the world (URL: http://lcweb.loc.gov).

And knowledge is something the Library of Congress is not short on. If you lined up the bookshelves used by the library, they would stretch 532 miles—roughly the distance between Washington, D.C., and Cincinnati, Ohio.

In this interview, the Rhodes scholar and former Harvard history professor explains why America needs knowledge and how the Library of Congress can contribute to the national defense of this nation.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: Many Americans don't really know what the Library of Congress is or what it does. What is its mission?

JAMES H. BILLINGTON: We help America win wars, educate children and prepare for the next century.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library. We're the repository for 110 million items. We also have the largest film and television archive in the world, with over 300,000 titles in our collection.

In addition to that and many more services, we run the Copyright Office and the Congressional Research Service, which is the world's largest think tank.

Q. How does a library help win wars?

A. Knowledge can be a weapon. During Desert Storm, the Department of Defense asked our assistance to determine whether or not the terrain would handle heavy tanks and land carriers.

They couldn't really find out by aerial photography how solid the terrain was. Nothing could be worse than to have that brilliant flanking operation sink in sand.

Our researchers went through a lot of material and what they found useful was old archaeological records of digs in southern Mesopotamia, particularly German archaeological diaries because they were very meticulous.

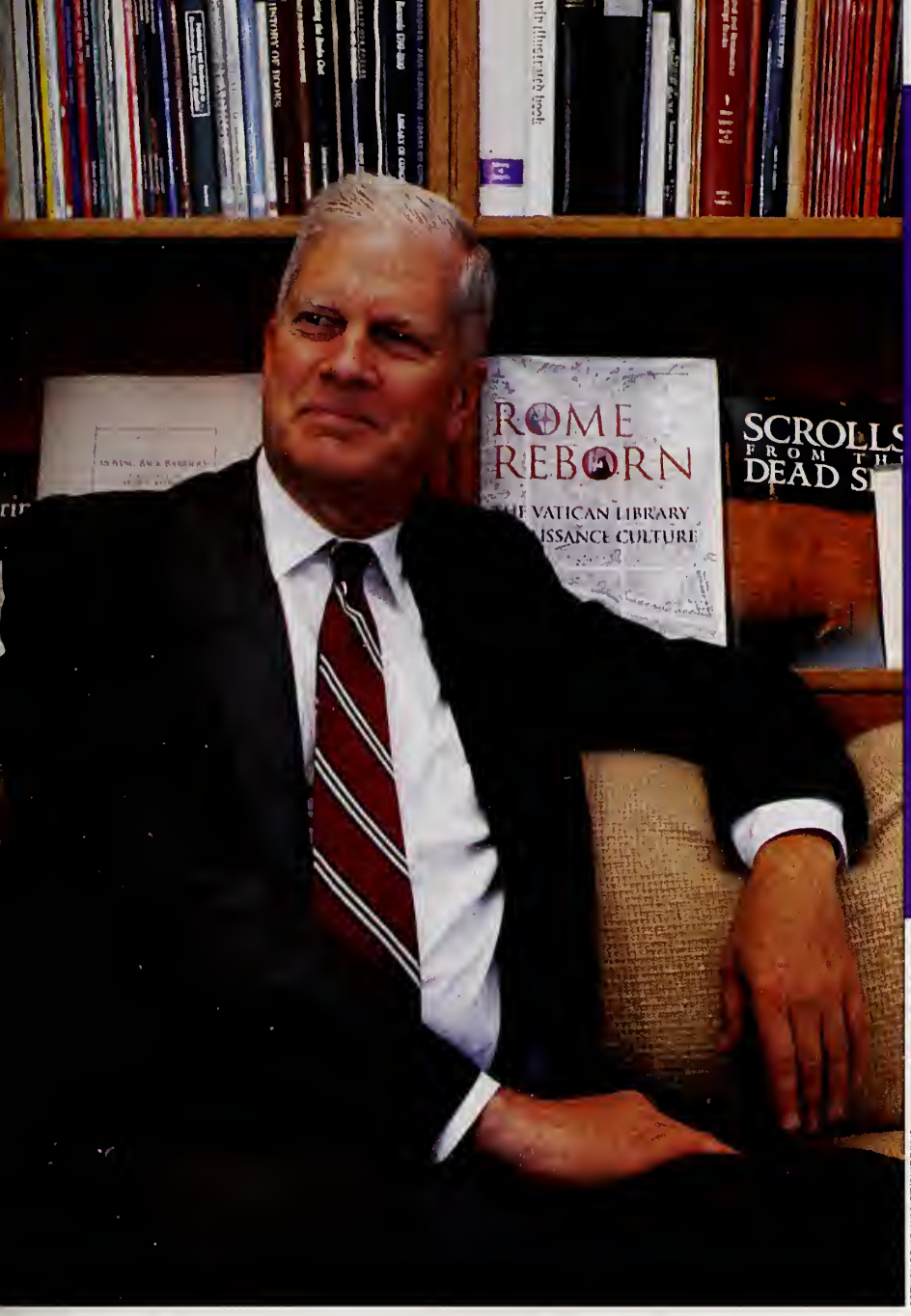
We were able to inform the military that their mission could succeed. And it did.

Q. With government downsizing, is the Library of Congress fighting for its survival as well?

A. Congress has been very generous in subsidizing us over the years. While they haven't cut our budget, we have lost about a tenth of our staff because of mandatory staff pay raises and price increases. We've also had to cut back on reading hours in the reading rooms.

Q. How many items does the library log each day and will that decrease because of these staff cuts?

A. Of the 48,000 items we receive each day, we keep less than 7,000. We are trying to reduce that to 5,000. But it's that extra margin of having what nobody else has that



J. HIGGINS/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

HIGHLIGHTS

James H. Billington On...

Library security: *"Closing the stacks to scholars was very painful for me. But it prevented theft and damage."*

Access: *"There is always a danger information might be misused. But it's worth the risk."*

Democracy: *"For a democracy to work in a large complex society, it has to be based on the dynamic use of knowledge."*

Hidden Value: *"A breakthrough in leukemia research came from an obscure German text we kept, which all the libraries in Germany had thrown out or never collected in the first place."*

makes us so valuable throughout the world.

According to the head of research at Sloan-Kettering, a breakthrough in leukemia research came from an obscure German text we kept. All the libraries in Germany had thrown out or never collected the text in the first place. So the things that look like junk today may help solve the problems of tomorrow.

Q. What role do you see the library and libraries in general playing in a democratic state?

A. An absolutely central role. For a democracy to work in a large complex society, it has to be based on the dynamic use of knowledge. In other words, for the system to be self-correcting and self-participatory, all its citizens have to have access to knowledge.

There can't be information have's and have not's. We are getting digitized material on the Internet because everyone has to have access to it if Americans want a fair and open democratic society.

Q. You are a proponent of the information superhighway. Do you see it giving everyone access to knowledge?

A. I'll give you one interesting example of the power of the new electronic communications. I happened to be in Russia during the great changes in August of 1991.

I was asked by the new reformist government to advise them on how to open up their archives. In return for that advice, they let us have 500 secret Soviet archive documents to exhibit during the Bush-Yeltsin summit in the summer of 1992.

We digitized that material and when we sent it back to parliament—which you may remember was warring with Yeltsin's government at that time—they impounded the exhibit, so it was never seen in Russia.

Q. Parliament moved against the exchange of knowledge and against democracy?

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Phantom PAIN

He never danced with his daughter because of a WWII wound that cost him a leg. But he felt something far greater was missing.

B. ZAKE/MERCURY PICTURES

By Deborah Mattingly Conner

THE DAY could not have been more beautiful. I stood with my mother and the deacon beside the long black limo and watched the attendant open the back door of the hearse. Then I saw them approach—the honor guard, walking slowly, rhythmically, their presence a ghostly, stoic echo of what honor guards have always been, and meant, through the centuries. They had come to claim my father as one of their own.

His entire life had been bound up in the image of the soldier. It stood next to him, remembering, in everything he did. This was true even though he was only briefly in uniform himself.

We grew up in the ever-expanding shadow of Washington's Capitol, where he worked long and successful hours as a lobbyist for veterans' causes. Always involved in some form of public service, he was the recipient of many awards and held by all in high personal esteem. At home, however, he was a different man: angry and remote, unable to connect to a family he clearly loved, but wouldn't allow to love him back.

From the distance of years, I see now that he couldn't love himself because part of him was lost, incomplete, claimed by places and a past he wouldn't speak of. The whole of my childhood was spent walking around the gaps of his missing pieces. His anger was a minefield my family grew to accept as our domestic landscape.

My generation came of age in the difficult and absurdly romanticized Vietnam War years. Though it is humorous to joke now that I left home for political reasons, the decision was heart-wrenching at the time. My father couldn't accept his country in any form but an idealized one, and there was no room for discussion or dissent. So I left to work my way through college, and he refused to speak to or about me during those years.

Over time, we managed to craft a fragile truce. It was during this time that I acquired what came to be for me a magic book—in effect, an instruction manual for my father. It was *The Glory and the Dream*, William Manchester's mammoth social history of America from the Depression to the 1970s. The book was populated with real people, real lives, instead of textbook facts. It told more than the cardboard when, where and what. It told the *who* and the *why*.

For the first time, I began to understand why certain words and phrases—*The Depression, The War, Korea, The*

Deborah Mattingly Conner is a freelance writer who resides in Alliance, Ohio.

COURTESY OF D. CONNER

"They carried him off, in measured beat, back to find the lost part of himself, and I watched in awe of the healing, the terrible sublime perfection of the ceremony."

—Deborah Conner

Communists, The Bomb—were incantated by my father with such awe and dread, and why the desecration of America's symbols stimulated such automatic, wordless rage in him and others of his generation. During my parents' coming of age, the once vast world had shrunk magically, impossibly before their very eyes. Their contemporaries had been through such a whirlwind of drama, courage and horror that they spoke to us about it only in mystical phrases they didn't want to explain—things too big to talk about except as raw concepts.

Manchester explained and mapped the complicated terrain of the War Generation, making it clear that they had been young, too, and had the same yearnings, hopes and dreams that I had...only they never dared act on those dreams until after the heartless war had absorbed their youth, leaving them disillusioned, determined to control and perfect the future. Hence the '50s, which they filled with the creature comforts they had sorely won. Hence, also, the wordless, distant love they showered upon us, a product of their need to escape the torment of their youth and feel things strictly on their own terms from now on. The relationship with their children would be perfect, they decided. There was no room for any questioning or arguing that might break the spell. They would forge ahead, keep the show on the road.

I finally saw that they simply couldn't talk about the pain and fear they had lived. They couldn't explain their sacrifice. And my generation was too ignorant and arrogant to understand.

But in my father's case, it was even more than this.

My father had joined the war the first moment that he could. The youngest child in a large family, he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his brothers. In the Army at last, he was sent to Northern Ireland as a mechanic, and the few small ragged pictures in the scrapbook left from that time show a tall, skinny blue-eyed boy, his arms encircling the shoulders of his beloved brothers-in-arms. He sits smiling with them around a campfire, his eyes shining and looking very like the grandsons he would never know. In all my life, I never saw his eyes shine like that.

His unit was bound to go on to the shores of Africa in the first great assault there. But they would go on without him.

We didn't go to the beach when I was a child. My father never danced. He was an amputee, and his full-leg prostheses was never strange or curious to me. It was only part of him, and he was happy to have it, proud of his skill in making his deficiency undetectable. Any improvement in its mechanism was a welcome wonder to him, and he was delighted to help and encourage others who shared his affliction. On his last trip to Mexico, he was thrilled that his new appliance would have a molded realism—even toes—that would allow him to wear shorts and sandals.

When we would ask him casually how he lost his leg, he always said, "In the war." The explanation somehow sufficed and was never elaborated on, even to my mother. After I read Manchester's *The Glory and the Dream* and his personal account of the war in the Pacific, *Onward Darkness,* my dad and

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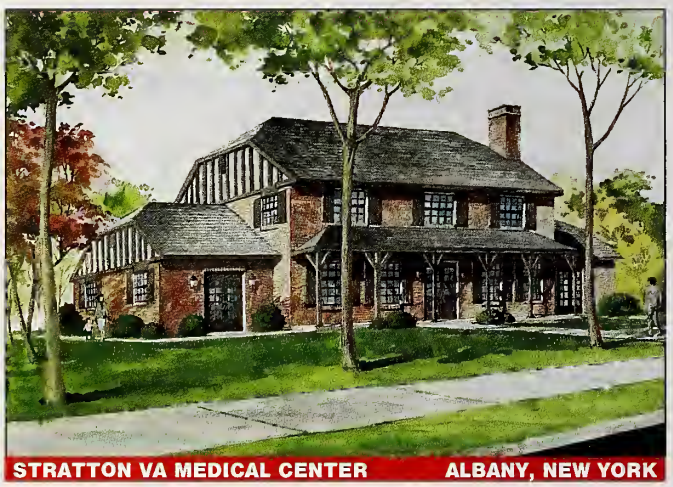
COURTESY OF D. CONNER

STAR GAZING—*Actress Betty Grable meets the author's father, Charles E. Mattingly, and other GIs during World War II.*

Houses of HEALING



STRATTON VA MEDICAL CENTER ALBANY, NEW YORK

HOSPITALITY—Joe Gaeta, left, and Dorothy and Russell Peterson found comfort and solitude at the Minneapolis Fisher House.

He spent fifty years creating some of New York's finest buildings. Today, he and his wife create new hope for families.

By John W. Alexander

THERE WE were. Like Mary and Joseph with no room at the inn. But with a check of her files and a smile, she said she may be able to help. A phone call from a lady in Suite Number 6 confirmed she was checking out. Those words were like music to our ears."

John W. Alexander, a retired Navy commander, is director of communications and public affairs for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

That's how WWII Navy veteran Alexander Eakins describes his arrival last October at the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher House located at the Samuel S. Stratton VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Albany, N.Y. He and his wife, Marion, had traveled from their home in Rome, N.Y., so she could undergo surgery to replace a valve in her aorta. For the 10 days his wife remained hospitalized, Eakins was a guest at the Fisher House, where he was joined at different times by their children.

The Fisher House in Albany, only seven months old at the time of Eakins' visit, was the 19th Fisher House built, but the first one constructed at a VAMC. VA Secretary Jesse Brown was on hand for the dedication in March 1995.

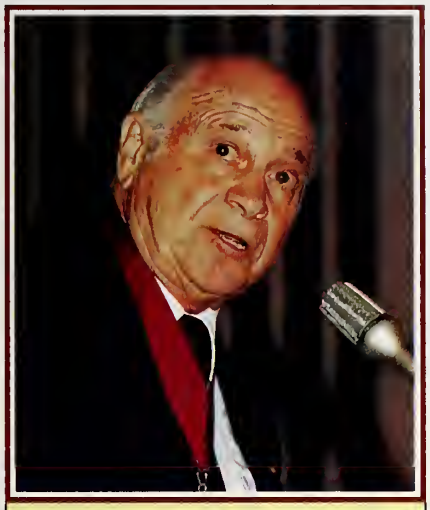
"When a veteran is seriously ill, the constant support of a loving family can be the best medicine in the world," Brown told the gathering. "That is why this Fisher House is so very important. It will provide a home away from home for veterans or their families undergoing extensive in-patient or out-patient treatment, and it will provide a place to stay for the families of hospitalized veterans."

Nearby sat a beaming Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, holding hands and taking in the spring sunshine and an ever-brighter moment in their lives. They knew that by the end of 1995, four more houses would be completed: two at VAMCs in West Palm Beach, Fla., and two in the Minneapolis area.

The Fishers' uncommon generosity has been a common phenomenon for years. But they don't consider it generosity—just a way of saying thanks to a segment of Americans who don't often hear it. Says Fisher, who turned 85 last September: "We love the military and we love our country, so it's a privilege and a pleasure for Elizabeth and me to be in a position to show, in a tangible way, our feelings about them. We make a living by what we earn, but we make a life by what we do for others," says Fisher, who built a reputation as a leading real estate investor and

ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF THE FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION

M. LUNENBERG/MERCURY PICTURES



JOHN SIMON

HUMANITARIAN—*Zachary Fisher and his wife, Elizabeth, received the National Commander's Public Relations Award in 1992 for their years of supporting veterans.*

MALCOLM GROW USAF MEDICAL CENTER ANDREWS AFB, MARLYAND

Twenty-three Fisher Houses are home to families facing the triple blow of critical illness, financial pressures, and separation.

developer of a number of prestigious office buildings gracing midtown Manhattan.

Fisher Houses welcome all active duty, retired and military veterans and their families. Guests fill out an application obtained from the military or a VA hospital admissions office. Depending on occupancy levels, turnover rates and waiting lists, selections might be limited to families of inpatients with life-threatening illnesses. A family's income and distance they've traveled also are considerations.

Russell Peterson of Pine City, Minn., learned about Fisher Houses through the nursing staff at the Minneapolis VAMC after he was admitted for a series of radiation treatments for cancer. "The Fishers really touched our lives," says Peterson, an Army veteran who served in field artillery in 1946-47. "A year ago my wife had bypass surgery and I stayed in a hotel at some expense. This experience has been marvelous.

"The Fisher House staff took us under their wing. Our room was quiet and restful. My wife and I walked to and from the medical center and Fisher House—it was a good physical fitness walk. This house goes beyond my wildest dreams," Peterson adds.

While he and his wife have always helped the needy and supported worthy causes, terrorist acts in the Mideast moved them to even greater acts of philanthropy. After the 1983 terrorist bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut and the 1987 missile attack on the *USS Stark* in the Persian Gulf, the couple established the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Armed Services Foundation to assist military families facing a crisis. The foundation also created a college scholarship fund for the children of military personnel, retirees and veterans.

The idea for Fisher Houses came in 1990, when Pauline Trost, wife of former Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Carlisle Trost, approached the Fishers with the idea to build "comfort" homes on the grounds of military medical facilities across the nation.

"Since we had the foundation," says Fisher, "and I'm a builder, the idea made sense." And the builder had a blueprint in mind. Each house would comprise about 5,000 square feet and be designed to match the prevailing local architecture. They would be divided into two stories, with eight suites and a floor plan that provided privacy, but offered common-use areas to encourage guests to spend time together rather than remain alone in

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TASK FORCE—Members of the Kings County American Legion gather for a victory pose after the dedication of the Brooklyn ball field. Many young people will benefit from this remarkable project.

A Field Of Their Own

It was a vast wasteland of garbage, junk cars and rats in Brooklyn. Then the Legion moved in.

THE STOCK MARKET

VIEWED FROM the rooftop of the housing project across the street, The American Legion Recreational Facility at 102nd Street and Seaview Avenue in Canarsie, New York, appears mostly as a broad expanse of dirt, stretching out and filling the horizon. It is winter, and the complex of as-yet-unfinished fields is coated with frost; there are pipes laying right about where a second baseman would make his pivot on a double play, and the baselines, for the most part, are less a straight line than a mere suggestion of one.

Overall, it takes a fair amount of imagination to visualize the architectural grandeur foreseen in the blueprint for the project. But it takes no imagination at all to picture the scores of joyful kids, to hear the umpires yell, "Play Ball!" or to smell the hot dogs cooking on a barbecue tended by a parent volunteer.

In the space of a year, The American Legion of Kings County, N.Y.—a section better known as Brooklyn—has done what very few thought possible: They have taken a 30-acre parcel of wasteland strewn with garbage, junk cars and enormous rats, and transformed it into an authentic field of dreams for the American Legion ballplayers of Brooklyn.

"The city never thought we could put it all together," says past County Commander/Department Vice Commander Joe Saia, as he walks the perimeter of the one completed field. Bending to pick up an errant stone, Saia continues, "We were the only ones who knew we could get it done."

For some time, Frank Giordano, New York Department's Judge Advocate emeritus, had been pressuring the City of New York to provide a field dedicated specifically to Legion play. The Kings County Legion program had been in existence for over 40 years, and involved over 1,520 ballplayers. Brooklyn Legion officials felt the program deserved a permanent home.

As Giordano saw things, this was hardly a frivolous request. "In Brooklyn, ballfields suitable for Legion play are not easy to find," he says. "Permits have to be renewed annually, and there's always a lot of juggling." Year after year the teams ended up being shuttled to various fields at schools,

churches and other facilities all over the county, often on relatively short notice. "We never knew where we might be asked to play next," adds Ed Wilson, Adjutant of Kings County and vice chairman of the Legion ball program.

There were incidents where the Legion players would gather at the day's designated venue only to find another team already installed on the field. If the problem could not be resolved quickly, the Legion games would have to be cancelled.

Even if the boys were fortunate enough to actually get to play, the teams then had to contend with the fields themselves, which were not always of the highest caliber.

This not only affected the quality of play, but posed a very real danger to the players when you consider the size and strength of the young men involved in Legion ball and the aluminum bats they typically use. "That ball is coming at you at upwards of 100 miles an hour," says Saia, whistling for added effect. "You don't want to have to worry that it's going to ricochet off a little piece of a half-buried cinderblock and shoot up and hit you in the face."

Through three years of meetings, officials from the City of New York stonewalled, evaded and generally ducked the issue of providing fields. Says Wilson, "They kept putting us off and putting us off. Finally, they just told us flat out they couldn't give us the ballfields we wanted. So we said, 'Give us the land, we'll do it ourself.' And they said, 'If we can't do it, how can you?' We told them to let *us* worry about that."

That apparently was the clincher—although the offer the city came across with was, to say the least, underwhelming. "The land they gave us was a dumping ground for garbage and wrecked cars," says Giordano. "It had deep, treacherous ravines. It had weeds 8 feet high and rats 18 inches long. There were even squatters living there." Giordano shakes his head. "A field of dreams, it was not."

In the enormous task of clearing the land, "We almost expected to find Jimmy Hoffa," says Legionnaire Joe Saia.

WAVING HIGH—The national anthem and an honor guard of Kings County Legion Posts open the dedication.

Still, Giordano conveys profuse thanks to Borough President Howard Golden, whose office needed to approve the project on behalf of the Legion. "Without Howard's help," says Giordano, "even the wasteland they gave us wouldn't have been available."

FOR THE KIDS—Kings County Legion band conductor Irwin Meyer and his grandchildren enjoy the festivities.

Daunting though the project was, the Legion quickly mobilized for action. The first priority was to secure cooperation from people who might be helpful to the cause—specifically, those who could provide donations of labor and materials. Toward this end, Giordano formed a corporation consisting of heavy hitters in the community: people whose influence he felt could help bring others on-board.

Among the directors of American Legion Kings County Youth Recreational Facilities, Inc., were Edward Cush, public relations and business manager of Local 316 of the Iron Workers Union; Joseph Hydok, a senior vice president of Consolidated Edison Company (ConEd), New York's major provider of gas and electric utility service; and Thomas Reilly, senior security officer of Pfizer, Inc., a major pharmaceutical company. With such individuals ardently selling the idea of community involvement, the project eventually would expand to include banks, other labor unions, industrial concerns and a fair number of good-hearted Brooklynites with no particular affiliation but "who just wanted to pitch in," as Saia puts it.

The management of transforming the dump into ballfields fell to Saia, himself a retired ConEd engineer. "I

CALLUS TIME— Legionnaires perform pick-and-shovel duties on the diamonds in the rough.

tell you frankly," he says, smiling, "it wasn't on first sight the most attractive project I'd ever had to tackle. But looking back, I'd have to say it was the most rewarding."

On a gray day in May of 1995, an armada of trucks and tradesmen swung into action under Saia's direction. Nearly 100 people dispersed themselves through the site, confronting the enormous task of clearing the land. Trucks with winches helped pull out the abandoned cars—at least 40 of them, some all but buried underground. "We almost expected to find Jimmy Hoffa," says Saia, and his deadpan expression tells you that he is only half kidding.

A Field Of Their Own

In the ensuing 12 months, more than 2,200 double-truck loads of fill were delivered, eliminating ditches that once had dipped as low as 20 feet. Graders and screeners were put into operation to clear out rocks. Twenty-ton bulldozers plowed the fields, spreading out tons of donated soil. Truckloads of pipes, cement, wires and other materials began arriving daily. In time, the first shipments of clay and sod were brought in, and something resembling a ballfield began to take shape.

This was a bittersweet time for Saia, whose wife of many years struggled with illness. He spent countless hours shuttling back and forth between the field and the hospital and his home, trying to cover all the bases, as it were.

"Joe and I and a lot of the others were working six days a week," recalls Wilson, "often from almost sun-up to sundown. The operating engineers helped with the specs for the building, the iron workers put up the field house. The plumbers got involved. It was a total effort."

Indeed, Giordano estimates the total value of donated time, labor and materials at "upwards of $5 million."

Wilson believes that the tactic of seeking donations of materials rather than outright cash grants was a winning move and represents the wave of the future in fundraising: "What we did was go to an organization and say, would you be willing to advance us some grass seed? We do that rather than [ask for] a dollar amount. This way they can see it. They come down and we point to the outfield and we say, You see that grass out there? That's your seed." This approach, says Wilson, combats today's unfortunate wave of skepticism about fundraising and also creates widespread community involvement at a time when companies are besieged with requests for donations.

On the morning of April 21, 1995, then-National Commander William Detweiler, New York Department Commander David Varney, Department Adjutant Richard Pedro, Department Treasurer Anthony Minei, National Executive Committee Member William Brown, Department Vice Commander Dr. Anthony Terranova and many other American Legionnaires joined elected New York officials and community members to dedicate the fields. Fittingly, as Detweiler at center stage praised the Legionnaires for their unflagging dedication, work in another corner of the complex pressed on, with crews measuring fencing and welding pipe joints together on the framework for new backstops. ("No rest for the weary," says Saia.) Edward Cush, co-chairman of the construction program, expressed his gratitude to the crews still on the field, saying, "If I had a million years I could never pay back in favors what I owe these people."

Just one of the six fields was ready for action in 1995, but that field saw plenty of baseball. Two dozen teams played a full schedule, punctuated by the Borough President's Tournament in August. This year, says Wilson, "We'll be playing on three baseball fields and one softball field, starting in mid-May." All told, some 32 teams will see action on the Brooklyn complex. There is even serious talk of adding a roller rink in tribute to the memory of a slain New York City patrolman.

"The city never expected it to go this far," says Giordano, sitting in a nice Italian restaurant overlooking the bay, a mile or so from the complex. "They told us we couldn't build on the land."

He pauses, and his eyes betray the mischievous twinkle of a lawyer who thrives on winning unwinnable cases. Hefting a breadstick for emphasis, he growls, "So I told *them*, 'Oh yeah? Just *watch* us.' " □

Because They Care

By Anthony Miller

Amid the mounting violence in our world, a special group of Americans continue to help their neighbors.

G. BOGDON-MERCURY PICTURES

GOD'S CHILDREN—Vantrease Russell has been "mother" to over 1,200 children who have lived with her at the Russell Home for Children. Recognizing her special ability to communicate with children, Russell has reached out to parents of disabled youngsters and those with special needs in the Orlando, Fla., area.

IF IT'S true that we own only what we give away, Vantrease Russell and other recipients of the 1995 National Caring Awards are set for life.

Russell and the other Good Samaritans were honored in Washington last December for their undying devotion to helping others.

"The recognition has just been beautiful. You've heard of 'Queen for a Day'? Well, I was 'Queen for a Night,' " says the mother of seven who has extended her maternal care over the years to more than 1,200 kids at her Russell Home for Children in Orlando, Fla.

Since 1988, the Washington, D.C.-based National Caring Institute has honored special Americans like Russell—those who give of themselves for the

Anthony Miller is the Associate Editor of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

benefits of others. Among them have been grandmothers, community activists, clergy and Americans representing all socio-economic layers. Recipients of the award have also included wealthy citizens, though no amount of money buys admission to this club. The only dues are compassion, selflessness and public service.

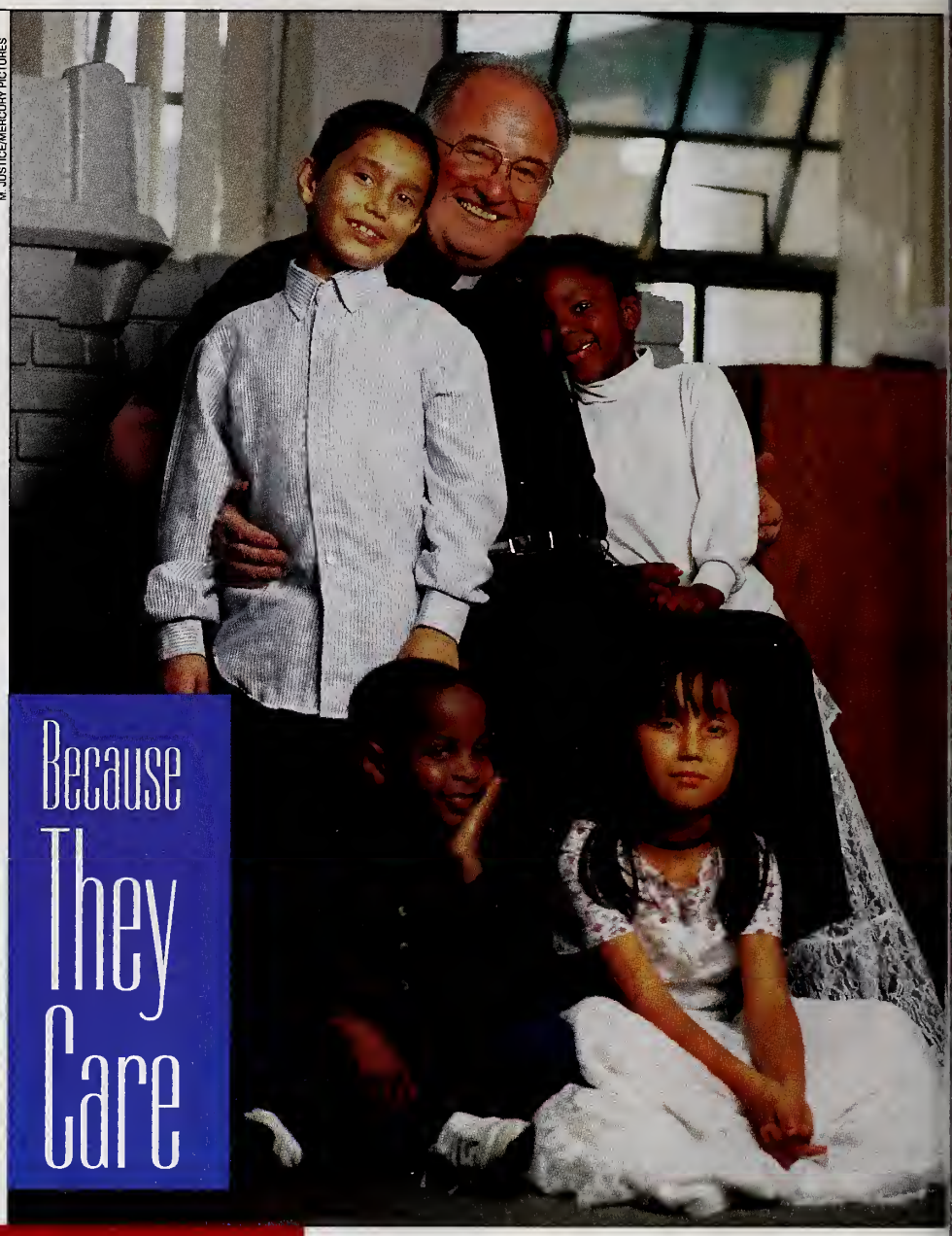
For nearly half a century, Russell has provided troubled and needy children with a loving alternative to state or private institutions. "I was just a foster mother to anybody who needed help. I took one in, then another one, then another one. It all came to me like a spider web building around me. I didn't set out to do anything like this," says Russell, whose home currently shelters 27 children, has a 20-member staff and is supported by donations from Orange County agencies, charitable foundations and private citizens.

Of Russell and her co-winners of the Caring Award, Colleen Noland, the National Caring Institute's program director, says: "We see enough examples in our society of people we don't want to emulate. We want to reinforce the examples set by exceptional men and women we can point to as role models."

Role models such as Amber Coffman, another winner of the Caring Award. Inspired by the work of Mother Teresa, the 13-year-old from Glen Burnie, Md., founded Happy Helpers for the Homeless. Every Saturday, Amber and her schoolmates bag 400 lunches and distribute them to the homeless in Glen Burnie and other nearby communities.

Amber has recently expanded her help to the homeless by including clothing and toiletries along with the lunches. Her Caring Award also cited the time she gives after school and weekends to volunteer work with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Adopt-a-Grandparent program and

M. JUSTICE/MERCURY PICTURES



Because They Care

VILLAGE PEOPLE—Father Joe Carroll is founder and director of the St. Vincent de Paul Village, which feeds more than 2,000 people daily in San Diego. The complex also houses 855 people and includes a medical center, and centers for runaway teens and the chronically homeless.

THE CARING INSTITUTE

LET'S DANCE—Jacques d'Amboise established New York City's National Dance Institute in 1976. Since then, the institute has helped foster an awareness of the arts in some half a million inner-city youths. The dance institute also offers scholarships and conducts international exchange programs.

HAPPY HELPERS— Motivated by the work of Mother Teresa, Amber Coffman founded the Happy Helpers for the Homeless when she was just 10 years old. Today, three years later, she and her volunteer schoolmates prepare 400 bag lunches for the homeless every Saturday.

M. VILLAFUERTE/MERCURY PICTURES

Since 1988, the National Caring Institute has been honoring Americans whose compassion and selflessness improve the lives of others.

the National Kidney Foundation.

The Caring Institute also honors people who can provide positive answers to the question, "Who cares?" People like Father Joe Carroll of San Diego, Calif., who has developed a "one-stop shop" approach to fighting the spiral of despair and accompanying social problems like homelessness, mental illness and alcohol or drug dependence.

Father Carroll, 55, founder of St. Vincent de Paul Village, doesn't like tags or barriers; a self-confessed wheeler-dealer, his persuasiveness and sense of mission has made St. Vincent's one of the country's most imitated rehabilitation shelters for the homeless.

Starting in 1982 from what Carroll calls "a mule line" serving 300 meals a day to the needy, the St. Vincent de Paul village has evolved into a massive human salvage operation covering one square block of downtown San Diego.

The Bronx native considers himself more an entrepreneur than a social worker. St. Vincent's current $16 million annual budget supports 260 full-time staff members at six centers that provide housing for 855 residents and offer a medical clinic, a shelter for runaway teens and two facilities for people with AIDS.

"We can take people through whatever it is they need, rehab counseling, vocational courses, whatever, so we can monitor their progress. If I'm a doctor and you come to me with a broken leg, would I rather send you across town for an X-ray, or down the hall?"

The "Father Joe" formula—grouping all services the homeless need at a single site—has been adopted in Salt Lake City, Charlotte, N.C., Denver and Las Vegas.

In accepting his Caring Award, the Catholic priest looked around the room and said, "I was amazed at the spectrum of people the institute found. It's not just the Jimmy Carters or the Father Joes; it's young kids, it's grandmothers. This is America. Every generation just seems to have this inborn sense to help people who need help."

Like Vantrease Russell and 13-year-old Amber Coffman, Carroll's brand of caring is not for sale; it is given away willingly and daily for those who need it.

"I just won't settle for less than the best we can do," says Carroll. □

SO, YOU WANNA BUY A HOWITZER?

IN ALAMEDA, Calif., a couple months back, anyone interested in owning a basketball set—poles, backboards, even the electronic scoreboard—could have picked one up cheap. Same for desks, camping equipment, cameras, virtually anything not classified as a weapon.

These items are all available from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS), the world's largest military surplus store.

American Legion Posts are among those who may be able to obtain these items free, providing they are used in programs devoted to the public good.

For example, a Post that sponsors a homeless shelter could obtain free lighting fixtures, desks, bunks and other items to furnish the facility. Other projects eligible for surplus property include elderly daycare, soup kitchens, shelters, transportation services and other programs of public assistance.

Under the guidelines set down by the General Services Administration (GSA), DoD agencies get first crack at any items they might need, followed by other federal government agencies, then state and local governments, nonprofit organizations and the public.

DRMS operates 100 retail outlets around the country, usually located near military bases. Sales are made by spot bid, sealed bid or auction. Often the zone sales are of interest to small businesses because they may contain items like large numbers of desks or other types of office equipment. Even passenger cars are available.

Other items ranging from jungle fatigues to tools to computers may be found. Some are new and others are used. The retail items are offered at a fixed price, and the inventory constantly changes.

DRMS officials point out, however, that you shouldn't get the idea you can go out and buy a howitzer for your very own to keep the neighbor's dog off your yard. All weapons are demilitarized, rendering them useless.

For a DRMS catalog list, call 1-800-GOVT-BUY (1-800-468-8289) or visit the DRMS WEB site via computer at http://www.drms.dla.mil or http://131.87.1.51.

To find out if your Post is eligible for donations of surplus property, write: U.S. General Services Administration, Suite 6002, 18th and F Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20405.

Phone A Deposit

Veterans who receive monthly compensation or pension checks from VA are being urged to sign up for automatic deposit. VA has made the process nearly painless by allowing veterans to simply phone in their information. The advantage of having monthly checks go directly to your bank is that electronic deposits cannot be lost or stolen.

VA also estimates that electronic deposit saves the government 30 cents per check in printing and postage—a potential savings of several million dollars if every veteran participated.

To switch to automatic electronic deposit, phone VA at 1-800-827-1000.

MacArthur, Come Back!

Veterans who participated in the liberation of the Philippines during World War II and who had ordered Philippine Liberation Medals from the Philippine government will have to wait to get their medal. According to the Armed Forces Affairs Office of the Philippine Embassy, some 15,000 medals were originally cast and they were gone by January 1995. Philippine Embassy officials told THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE that as soon as new medals were cast, they would resume filling orders.

However, another problem now exists. There is no money in the Philippine budget to pay for the medals. The government is looking for alternate means of funding, but as of now, those who ordered medals, but did not get them, are in for an indefinite wait. Philippine officials assure veterans that their checks will not be cashed until the medals are once again available.

Point of Law

Veterans who have recently refinanced a GI home loan may be victims of point gouging, VA warns. R. J. Vogel, VA undersecretary for benefits, says VA has seen instances where as many as 7 discount points have been rolled into home loans already bearing the full market interest rates. For VA home loans, the number of points—percentage points against a home loan that mortgage companies can charge borrowers—is limited to 2. The problem is, the 2-point limit guideline is voluntary, not compulsory.

Ironically, the ability to add points, closing costs, funding fees and other costs into the loan are factors that make VA home loans attractive. When interest rates drop, VA regularly informs veterans that it may be beneficial to refinance their home loans.

According to Vogel, VA will seek new regulations to guard against excessive loan points. He says in some instances veterans may not realize they are inflating the amount of their loan beyond their homes' actual market value.

While new regulations are being drafted, and before VA will issue a certificate of eligibility, VA says it will require lenders to get signed statements from veterans acknowledging they are aware of being charged more than the 2-point limit.

Cyber CFR

Veterans who are hooked into the Internet can now access Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations, the regulations VA bases its policies on. The Internet CFR is a searchable version of the regs that allows users to type key words or phrases and locate pertinent segments of the regulations.

The Internet address is: http://www.va.gov/regs/title38.htm. Outside of cyberspace, Title 38 CFR can be found in most libraries, or purchased from the General Printing Office (Phone 1-202-512-1800).

However, veterans wanting to file claims should still contact a Legion Service Officer. □

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MCCONNELL'S MAGNIFICENT FLIP-FLOP

KENTUCKY Sen. Mitch McConnell doesn't regret voting against Senate Joint Resolution 31, the flag protection amendment he helped defeat in December. Instead, he now seems embarrassed that he voted for a flag protection bill back in 1990.

"I think we all do things in life that strike us later as mistakes, based upon our experience and longer perspective," McConnell told *The American Legion Dispatch* recently.

"Since then," he went on, "I have spent time studying the First Amendment and have developed a greater appreciation for the fundamental importance of free speech to our country."

Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.

Despite opponents' attempts to prove otherwise, members of the Citizens Flag Alliance (CFA) insist that protecting the flag is not a free speech issue at all.

They say there is no consensus in this country that suggests a federal flag-protection law would endanger the citizens' right to free speech.

CFA officials recommend the two-term senator spend more time studying voters' wishes.

According to an independent poll conducted last fall, an overwhelming number of Kentucky's registered voters, 80 percent, support passage of a flag amendment bill.

Those numbers mirror Americans' sentiments about the flag in nationwide polls taken in recent years. Kentucky state lawmakers in 1995 passed a flag memorializing resolution, one of 49 states to do so since the Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that flag desecration was free speech, and therefore protected by the First Amendment.

McConnell said he couldn't foresee any circumstances that would convince him to support any future flag protection amendment. □

THE LONG ROAD BACK

WADE SPEES/MERCURY PICTURES

Medal of Honor recipient John R. McKinney, left, attends the dedication of a stretch of road named in his honor last year. McKinney, a member of American Legion Post 116, Sylvania, Ga., won the nation's top military honor for heroic action in the Philippines during World War II.

DISCOUNT DRUG PLAN PILES UP SAVINGS

IN ITS FIRST seven months, The American Legion Discount Prescription Program has produced $750,000 in savings to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion (SAL) members.

To receive their discount, Legionnaires and SAL members take their prescription to one of the thousands of participating pharmacies enrolled in the plan and show their membership cards. The amount of savings vary, of course, but RxAmerica officials say customers have saved about 17 percent on average.

RxAmerica

If a pharmacy happens to offer medication "on sale," Legion family customers always get the lower price. Legionnaires and SAL members can expect to save money about 90 percent of the time.

Program officials say the only time Legion family members don't save money is when the drug store offers brand name drugs on sale as a "loss leader" to attract customers.

Additional savings are possible for members who use the RxAmerica Mail Service program. By calling **(800) 905-9818**, a member can obtain an order form and patient profile.

Mail your doctor's prescription and the completed forms to: RxAmerica, P.O. Box 961025, Fort Worth, TX 76161-9863. Other health-related products, including vitamins, also are available through the mail service.

Check, money order or VISA, MasterCard and Discover credit cards are accepted. Prescription refills can be ordered by phone, using the toll-free number. □

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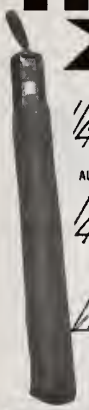

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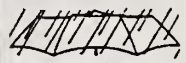

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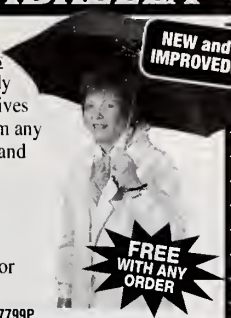

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1200 MG LECITHIN 19 GRAIN CAPSULES N548 ☐ 100 FOR 1.65 300-$4.55 600-$7.99 EXP. 4/30/96 ITEM # 22708

GINSENG 250 MG TABLETS ☐ 100 FOR 1.59 N548 500-$7.25 1000-$12.99 EXP. 4/30/96 ITEM # 19996

COD LIVER OIL CAPSULES ☐ 100 FOR 1.39 N548 500-$5.59 1000-$10.25 EXP. 4/30/96 ITEM # 16132

GARLIC OIL 500 MG CAPSULES ☐ 100 FOR 85¢ N548 500-$3.85 1000-$6.99 EXP. 4/30/96 ITEM # 19534

1132 MG CRANBERRY CAPS A FRIEND TO URINARY TRACT HEALTH N548 ☐ 100 FOR 3.00 250 FOR $6.25 EXP. 4/30/96 ITEM # 16636

BETA CAROTENE N548 CAPSULES 25,000 I.U.s ☐ 100 FOR 2.44 ☐ 250 FOR 4.99 EXP. 4/30/96 ITEM # 12436

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CO-ENZYME Q-10 UBIQUINONE 30 MG. SUPER STRENGTH 50 CAPS-$12.99 / 100 CAPS-$20.99 ITEM# 16175

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- ACIDOPHILUS CAPSULES 100-$2.65 / 250-$5.25 ITEM # 10210
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Keystone Legionnaires Fight Flood Waters

LEGIONNAIRES in Pennsylvania need more than comforting words to recover from January flooding that left the entire state a federal disaster area.

By mid-February, Department officials had received 30 applications for assistance and sent them along to The American Legion's National Emergency Fund staff at National Headquarters.

"We've been here 20 years and this is the worst it's been. When I left, water was knee-deep in our yard," says Delores Verbonitz, who belongs to Auxiliary Unit 456, Williamsburg, Pa.

She and her husband, Legionnaire Dan Verbonitz, applied for help through the National Emergency Fund after floodwaters from the Juniata River forced them to evacuate temporarily. The couple is currently living in the two habitable rooms left in their double-wide mobile home.

JOHN E. SIMON

LIMIT OF ENDURANCE–Auxiliary member Judy Plate of St. Charles, Mo., salvaged what she could of the family possessions after floodwaters from the Missouri River devastated homes, businesses and farms in the Midwest in 1993.

Department Adjutant Stanley Reinhard Jr. says other Pennsylvania Legionnaires and their families need short-term financial assistance to help rebuild their lives. All requests are screened by local Legion Post or District officers before being sent to the Department and National levels, says Reinhard.

Contributions may be sent to: The American Legion, National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 6141, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □

LEGIONNAIRES CAN BOOST VOTER TURNOUT

WITH the political season just beginning, plenty of time remains for Legionnaires to register voters or host a candidates' night event in their Post home.

"Get Out The Vote 1996" information packets are available to assist in conducting voter registration drives and candidate forums. To receive a free packet, write to: The National Americanism and Children & Youth Division, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

The packets contains tips for conducting a nonpartisan registration drive, a requirement under provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Law of 1971. The idea, says National Americanism Chairman Joseph E. Caouette Jr., is to promote the election process, not any party or partisan point of view.

"As voter turnout numbers continue to decline, we need to get more Americans to realize voting is not only a precious right, but a duty of citizenship," says Caouette.

LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

Post 1 of Wilmington, Del., presented 102-year-old WWI veteran Edwin E. Shallcross with a Department of Defense medal honoring his service in World War I.

Ninety-six-year-old C.W. Phifer, a life member of **Post 244, Richmond, Va.**, and his wife, 94-year-old Annie, celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary this past December.

Ralph J. Malphurs Sr., Commander of **Post 313, Jacksonville, Fla.**, has donated more than 500,000 sports cards to children at the Wolfson Children Hospital.

Post 180, Plantation, Fla., and the **Department of New Hampshire** teamed up to send disabled veteran David Moorhead of Post 66, Plymouth, N.H., to the Sunshine State for an all-expense-paid, 10-day vacation. Post 180 annually sponsors a disabled veteran's trip by conducting fund-raisers to cover expenses.

Post 301 of Austintown, Ohio, helped erect a memorial in honor of all female veterans.

Rolando Cabanas, a member of **Post 42 of Utuado, Puerto Rico**, donated $5,000 to an asylum for the poor and disabled and an additional $5,000 to the local Little Leagues.

Posts in Queens County, N.Y., donated $9,000 to the St. Albans VA Extended Care Center to buy and install a closed circuit TV system. An additional $2,000 was donated to the New York State Veterans Nursing Home for an internal TV network. □

Natural Prostate Relief

It's a natural fact. If you are a male over 40 and don't already suffer from a prostate gland disorder, the odds are 2 to 1 that you will before you are 59. By the age of 65, most American men have enlarged prostates.

As the years pass, mild discomforts can become disabling. Today, prostate surgery is the second most commonly performed surgery in men over age 65! Surgical complications can include total loss of bladder control and sexual dysfunction.

Prescription drugs may halt the swelling, but rarely end the suffering. Also, many prescription drugs may have side-effects, like weak erections and low sex drive.

Many doctors feel that prostate disorders can be treated or prevented by giving the prostate gland the nutrition it lacks.

Recent scientific research has shown how to remedy the underlying problems associated with prostate disorders--safely and effectively. These results have been published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology,* the *American Journal of Gerontology,* and papers from *the National Cancer Institute.* They reveal that several vitamins, minerals and natural herbs can dramatically shrink the prostate and improve urinary performance in older men.

The most modern application of these healthy ingredients is found in **Prostsafe™** from Whitewing Labs. **Prostsafe** is the nutritional "tool kit" for men with benign prostate problems, and those who wish to prevent them. It is a mixture of zinc, serenoa serrulata, ginseng, certain amino acids, bee pollen and vitamins A, B-6 and E. Working as a team, these ingredients have been shown to shrink a swollen prostate.

Our customers have said Prostsafe™ helps to:

Halt the endless trips to the bathroom during the night!

Stop that burning sensation during or after urination!

Prevent uncontrollable wetting!

Improve bladder control!

Empty bladder completely!

Sit through an entire sports event !

Eliminate burning feeling!

Dr. Leslie Atterbury III, M.D., says "Prostsafe supplies essential vitamins, minerals and herbs needed to nourish and maintain a healthy prostate."

For as little as a dollar a day, that seems like inexpensive insurance against prostate disorders. If for some reason you are not satisfied, just return the unused portion within 30 days for a full refund.

The reasons why men over 40 use **Prostsafe** are clear. If you are looking for relief, order **Prostsafe** today.

"I can now pass a bathroom without stopping. Sometimes I pass two or three!"
-- Mr. L. Johnston
Indian Wells, CA

"Now I get a good night's sleep without getting up every two hours to urinate."
-- Mr. C. Hussy
Cleburne, TX

"Before I used to have several bladder infections a year. Now I do not have any."
-- Mr. A. Simon
Charlotte, MI

"Prostsafe has stopped the burning after urination."
-- Mr. C.E. Black
Barboursville, WV

"I have less aches and stiffness"
-- Mr. K. Osmom
St. Francisville, IL

"...my urinary flow has improved greatly. I no longer have to force..."
-- Mr. P. G. Sadler
Ocean, NJ

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17939 Chatsworth St., Suite 408, Granada Hills, CA 91344

☐ PS1 1 month supply of Prostsafe only **$34.95** plus $4.50 S&H
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☐ PS6 6 month supply only **$119.95** (Save $89.75) plus $4.50 S&H
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or call 1-800-950-3030 Dept. 1249

THE VETERANS' CONNECTION

VETS® is a service that provides information about military reunions, helps veterans find old buddies and arranges reunions, travel and accommodations.

REUNIONS INFORMATION

This month there are 947 military reunions listed on these pages. In addition, VETS® has information on more than 12,000 other reunions. Call weekdays, 12 noon to 8 p.m., CDT. Calls cost $1.95 per minute. The average call takes three minutes.

1 (900) 737–VETS
1 (900) 737–8387

If you know the VETS® five-digit number assigned to your ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed after each outfit's name listed in the magazine. If you don't know the number or do not see your ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS® operators may still be able to provide you reunion information. Units are enrolling in VETS® daily.

PLANNING A REUNION

VETS® will help you arrange your outfit's reunion at no cost and save money in the process. Finders/Seekers® services are included free for VETS® managed reunions. VETS® also will maintain reunion coordinators' mailing lists and unit archives, and handle all reunion publicity needs. Tell us what you want, and we will do the work.

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Looking for a buddy or long lost relative? Finders/Seekers® service will send you a computer listing of names, addresses and phone numbers of people in the United States who have the same name as the person you're seeking. Finders/Seekers® guarantees you will get at least one name that matches, or it will refund your money. Search fees are $15 per name. Allow six weeks for a reply.

Write **Finders/Seekers®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901;** or call **(800) 449-VETS.** Mastercard/VISA accepted.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS® by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901. Unit names are published one time per year.

Army

1st Cav Div, 61st FA Bn #23105
1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt, 3rd Bn (Roosevelt Barracks, Berlin, 47-53) #19167
1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt Assn #21672
1st Inf. Div. Officers, "Big Red One" (WWI/WWII/VN/Persian Gulf) #15695
1st Radio Research Avn. Co., "Crazy Cat" (1967/68) #13968
2nd Arm'd Div., 17th Engr. Bn., A Co. (WWII) #16341
2nd Military Railway Serv., Hq Co. #11238
3rd Arm'd Div., 32nd Arm'd Rgt., D Co. #16008
3rd Arm'd Div, 36th Inf, 1st AR Bn, B Co, "Spearhead" (61/62) #19597
3rd Army, 128th AAA Gun Bn. (WWII) #16612
3rd Chem Mortar Bn (WWII) #15582
3rd Inf Div, 15th Rgt, B Co (Korea) #18786
3rd Inf. Div., 7th Rgt. Assn. "Cotton-balers" #16139
3rd Inf Div, 7th Rgt, B/D Co (Ozark Area) #16354
3rd Inf Div (Western Region) #16410
3rd Sig Co (WWII) #15227
4th Inf Div, 12th Rgt, 1st Bn #19550
4th Inf Div, 12th Rgt, 3rd Bn, 1st Bd "Braves" #22465
4th Inf. Div., 1st Bde., 4th Bn., C Co., 3rd Pltn. #19799
4th Inf Div "Ivy" Assn (Nat'l) #16302
4th Trans Cmd, 396th QM Bn Port (Incl Cos 3-5/692 pre-1942) #17625
5th Army Assn (WWII) #13073
5th Engr. Rgt., 1276th/1278th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII) #12344
5th Inf Div, 10th Rgt, A Co #16319
5th Inf. Div., 11th Rgt., 1st Bn., D Co. (VN, '68/69) #19346
5th RCT Assn (Korea) #20928
6th Cav Assn (Incl Attch'd Units) #15670
6th Inf Div, 6th QM Co #19142
6th Inf Rgt, McNair Bks (Berlin, 50-60) #22410
6th QM Trng Rgt (Camp Lee, 41) #14193
7th Army, 12th Chem. Maint. Co. (Baumholder, Ger. '52/54) #14910
7th Army, NCO Academy (Ger., '68/75) #19937
7th Inf Div, 13th Engr Combat Bn (All Yrs) #19992
7th Inf Div, 31st Rgt #19698
7th Inf Div, 31st Rgt, G Co #19159
7th Inf Div, 57th FA Bn #15765
8th Arm'd Div Assn "Thundering Herd" #15403
8th Inf Div, 3rd Bn, Co C #22476
9th Inf. Div., 3rd/5th Arm'd Cav. "Black Knights" (VN) #15982
9th Inf Div, 47th Rgt (Ft.Riley, 1966, VN 1966-69) #21393
10th Arty, 6th Bn (Ger, 63-67) #19421
10th Inf Div, 85th Rgt, I Co (Ft Riley '50/51) #19742
10th Mountain Div, 604th FA Bn (PK) (WWII) #13969
10th Mountain Div., 605th FA Bn., A Btry.(PK) #12374
10th Radio Research Unit, 313th Sec. Agency Bn, 371st Radio/Sec. Cos. #20306
11th AAA AW Bn(SP) (All Eras) #16066
11th Arm'd Cav Rgt, 409th Radio Research Detach (VN, 68-69) #22496
11th Arm'd Cav Rgt "Blackhorse Assn" (VN/Cambodia) #22777
11th Arm'd Div Assn #16052
12th Arm'd Div. Assn. (N. Central Chapt.) #16476
12th Arm'd Div (Hellcats, WWII) #16368
12th FA Observ Bn (WWII) #15396
13th Major Port #22806
14th Field Hospital #16440
17th Weather Sq, APO 502 (WWII) #14255
18th Arty., 3rd (How) Bn., A Btry. (61/63) #19844
18th FA Bn. (Korea, '50/53) #11516
19th Engr(C) Rgt (WWII) #20558
20th Arm'd Div, 20th Tank Bn, A Co #20271
20th Engr Bde (VN) #22283
21st Avn. Engrs. Rgt. #10399
23rd Inf "Americal" Div (WWII/Korea/ VN) #15926
24th Inf, 19th Rgt, 3rd Bn/34th Rgt, 1st Bn (Korea) #11154
24th Inf. Div., 11th FA Bn., All Btrys. (Korea) #21013
24th Inf Div, 21st Rgt, L Co (Korea, 50/51) #12001
24th Inf. Div., 26th AAA Bn., D Btry. (Korea, '52/54) #11470
25th Inf Div, 35th Rgt, L Co/29th Rgt, C Co (Korea) #10864
26th Inf Div, 104th Rgt Assn #11637
26th Inf Div, 39th Sig Co (ETO, WWII) #22491
26th Inf Div Assn "Yankee Div" (WWI/WWII) #20303
27th Inf Div, 106th Rgt, Hq Co #15450
30th Arty, 1st Bn (VN, 65-71) #19420
30th Inf. Div. Assn. #19319
30th Ord HM Co (Korea, All Years) #11226
30th Sig. Hvy. Const. Bn. #15224
31st Inf Div, 167th Inf Service Co (NG, Bessemer, AL) #22455
31st Inf Div ("Dixie" Div) Assn #15284
32nd Arty, 6th Bn (Ft Lewis, WA '63/64) #19767
32nd Gen Hospital (ETO, WWII) #11140
32nd Inf Div, Great Western Red Arrow Club #20527
32nd Inf. Div., Red Arrow Club (S. WI Chapt.) #20677
33rd Arm'd Rgt, 2nd (H) Tank Bn, A Co (Aschaffenburg, Ger, 58-63) #18814
34th Engr(C) Bn (VN, 67-75) #22482
34th Gen Hospital (Orleans, FR 53-67) #13996
34th Sig Co #20551
36th Station Complement #19823
37th Inf Div, 129th Rgt, Co M (Formerly of 33rd Inf Div) #22452
39th General Hospital (NZ/Saipan, WWII) #15544
40th Inf Div, 108th Rgt, A Co (WWII) #19443
40th Inf Div, 223rd Rgt, 1st Bn, A Co #14812
40th Inf Div, 40th MP Co (Korea) #19688
40th Inf. Div., 578th Engr. (C) Bn, Co B (Korea) #15575
43rd Inf Div, 169th Rgt, G Co (50-53) #14095
43rd Inf. Div., 43rd Recon. Co. (Ger. 51/53) #19654
44th/55th AAA Bde. (53-55) #20748
44th Inf Div, 114th Rgt #16113
45th Inf Div, 189th FA (Korea/WWII) #15493
45th Inf Div, 279th Rgt, 1st Bn, Hq Co #15871
45th Inf Div, 645th TD Bn (WWII) #15558
46th Ord. MM Co. #11349
47th Engrs, 1st Bn, Reorg.as 1397th Engrs. (All Years) #20217
47th Inf Div, 135th Rgt, 2nd Bn, G Co (Korea) #13497
51st A/B Inf., LRP/LRSU, F Co. (VN/Gulf/Ft. Bragg) #16340
51st Field Hosp., 2nd Unit (Coburg, Ger. '44/45) #19507
52nd Combat Avn. Bn. Camp Holloway Assn. #11292
52nd Engr(C) Bn (WWII) #22479
55th General Hospital #15439
56th Sig Bn Assn #16733
58th (A) FA Bn. (WWII) #18977
60th Sig Bn (WWII) #22651
62nd Sig Bn, B Co #22198
63rd Inf Div Assn, 253rd Rgt, F Co (WWII) #10335
65th General Hospital (WWII) #15557
65th Inf. Div., 265th Engr., C Co. #21204
66th Armor, Co D (Fort Campbell, 58-65) #22095
68th Med Rgt Assn #19266
68th QM Refrig. Co. (WWII) #15418
69th Div Recon Trp (WWII) #16720
70th/90th Coastal Arty AA (PI WWII) #19859
76th Engr. Const. Bn. (Korea, 1950/53) #23016
80th Inf Div Vets Assn #12422
82nd A/B, 325th Honor Guard, Hq/Hq Co (54/56) #19804
82nd A/B Div., 376th Parachute FA Assn. #16058
83rd Inf Div, 329th Rgt, Hq Co (WWII) #16490
83rd Chem. Mtr. Bn. #16385
84th & 62nd Engr. Const. Bn. (Korea, 1950-53) #14727
86th Inf Div, 341st Rgt, I Co (WWII) #23020
86th Inf. Div., 342nd Rgt., M Co. #22488
86th Inf. Div., 343rd Med. Det. (WWII) #12389
87th Chem Mortar Bn Assn #18925
88th Inf. Div., "Blue Devils" (SE Chapt.) #20427
91st Chem Mortar Bn (aka 1st Sep Chem Bn, Co A) #16395
93rd Arm'd FA Bn Assn #15616
94th Inf Div Assn (WWII) #16560
94th QM Baking Bn, A/B Cos(41-45) #16432
95th Inf Div Assn #16110
96th Inf Div Assn "Deadeyes" #16567
97th Inf Div, 365th FA Bn #15631
97th Inf Div, 386th Rgt, 2nd Bn, Hq Co #19904
97th Inf Div, 387th Rgt, 1st Bn, Hq Co #12710
97th Inf Div, 387th Rgt, C Co #11360
98th Inf Div (WWII) #12949
99th Evac Hospital (WWII) #19735
99th Ord. HM Co. (WWII) #19997
100th Gen Hospital (43-45) #15875
100th Hwy Trans Serv, 4611/4612th QM Truck Cos (PI) #10794
100th Inf Div, 398th Rgt, F Co #15515
100th Inf Div (FL Chapter) #15483
101st A/B Div, 2/320th Arty, A Btry (Ashau VN, 69/71) #14210
101st A/B Div, 320th Arty, C Btry (62-66) #19790
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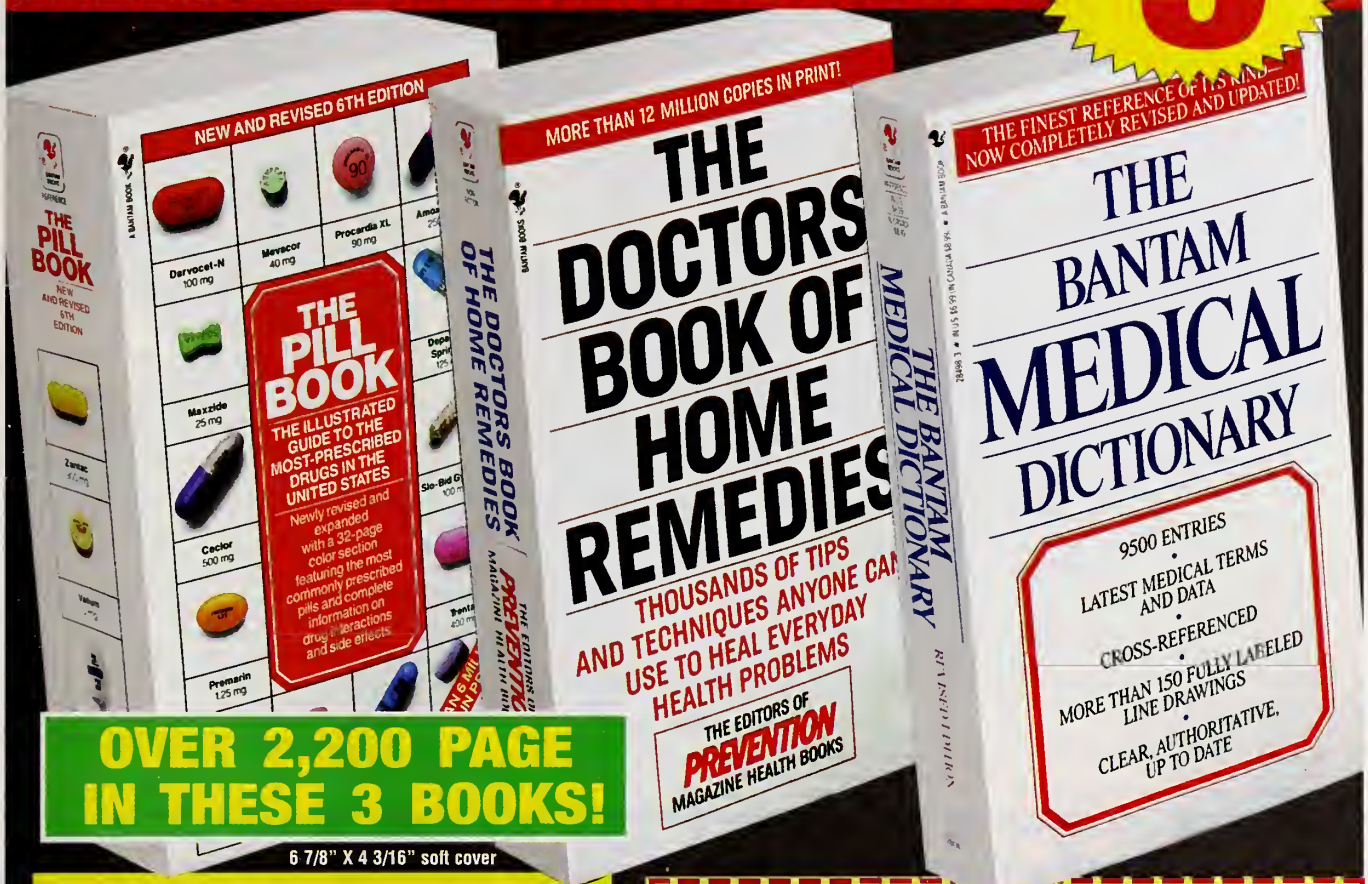

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ASA: Far East (ASAPAC), Camp Oji (1953-1958) #22429
Basic Trn.: 3rd Plt., 1st Trn. Bn., E Btry. (Ft.Sill, OK, Jun/Aug '76) #19939
CBI Sig. Air Warning Units (WWII) #19951
CBI War Dog Det (WWII) #16573
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II Corps Hq, II Dir. Air Spt. Ctr., Advis. Tm. 21 (Pleiku, VN '66/67) #16806
IX Corps, Hq Co. #22566
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Trans Cmmds: 4/5/124/125 (VN) #19066
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2nd NCB Spec (WWII) #19843
4th NCB (WWII) #17402
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95th NCB (WWII) #10773
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119th NCB (WWII) #28275
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136th NCB Assn #18432
ABATU AOM Class (Norfolk VA, 1943) #19989
Acorn-13/15 (Bougainville, Solomons, 1944) #19987
Adak/Amchitka/Attu/Dutch Harbor/Kodiak Radio Receivers (43/46) #21083
AG-12 Thunderbirds Assn. #17743
Armed Guard: SS Santa Cecilia (World Cruise, '42/43) #20780
Armed Guard: SS Tulane Victory #19977
ARS(D)-1/2/3/4 "Gypsy Class" Rescue/Salvage Ships #12736
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Avn. Ordnancemen Assn.(Incl. Marines) #22617
Base Hospital 15 (Navy 3205, Manus Island '44/46) #17605
Base Hospital #17 (All Units, Hollandia, New Guinea) #14264
Bedford Springs Radio School, Co 13 (1944) #17833
CAG-14 (1943/46) #19957
Cargo Handling Bn. #5 (CHB-5) #19703
CASU-16/17/44 (Tarawa & Tinian 1944-45) #11767
CBMU-538 #21590
CBMU-552 / CBMU-553 #17762
CBMU-599 (WWII) #17871
Cruiser Sailors Assn. (All Years) #11576
CTG-7-3 Boat Pool #10978
CUB-10, NOB-3115 (Hollandia, New Guinea WWII) #18673
Explosive Ord. Disposal Assn. (WWII) #18678
Fleet Air Wing 7 (Dunkeswell, Eng. WWII) #13437
Flying Midshipmen Assn. (1946/50) #17513
Food Serv Mgt Team #22394
FPO 926 Personnel (Guam 44-46) #12786
GROPAC 9/USNB 3252 (Peleliu, WWII) #14682
HCU-1 (Harbor Clearance Unit, VN) #14608
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Intelligence Processing Systems Training Facility #22418
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LCI (G) 439 #17354
LCI (G) 450 #16772
LCI (L) 1-5,8-16,32,33,35,75,193,209, 211-219,229,231,232,238 #11232
LCI (L) 445 #18602
LCI (R) 1030 #22462
LCT Flotillas (ETO/PTO WWII) #19430
LSM-110 (Korea) #12010
LSM/LSMR Nat'l Assn #18552
LST-1014 #20302
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LST-268 #21332
LST-325 (WWII) #17879
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LST-532 (WWII) #14609
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LST-603 (Coconino County) #18088
LST-621 Assn #17753
LST-652 #18012
LST-654 #10910
LST-664 #19998
LST-691 #21575
LST-70 (WWII) #12668
LST-772 (WWII) #19908
LST-858/AGC-7 (Recomm. ARL-26, Dec. '47) #28342
LST-909 #19225
LST-944 (WWII) #22459
LST-957 (Amphib Forces) #18643
LST Assn (IN Chapt, Incl CG) #19311
LST Assn. (OH Chapt.) #19102
LST Assn (PA Chapter) #19287
MCB-74 (VN) #21093
MCB-9 (52-69) #17905
NAG-92 (USS Lexington CV-16, 1944/45) #19661
NAS Glenview (IL) Survivors #19166
NAS Lemoore Vietnam Aviators #19955
NAS Ottumwa (IA) #19605
NATTC AOM Class, G-9, Sec. 4 (Millington, TN) #19988
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NAVSTA Midway Aircraft Maint./SAR Crew (1964/70) #19956
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USS General Wm. A. Mann AP-112/TAP-112 (1943-66) #13503
USS Gen George M Randall AP-115 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11891
USS Gen J C Breckenridge AP-176 (Incl CG WWII/VN) #13176
USS Gen W H Gordon AP-117 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11882
USS Gen Wm Mitchell AP-114 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11885
USS Gen Wm P Richardson AP-118 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11888
USS Gen Wm Weigel AP-119 (Incl CG, WWII/VN) #11886
USS George F. Elliott AP-13/105 (Heartland Chapt) #12135
USS George W. Ingram DE-62/APD-43 #21166
USS Goodhue APA-107 #18239
USS Gosper APA-170 #18670
USS Gridley DD-380 #17734
USS Guadalcanal CVE-60/Task Grp 22.3 (Capture of U-505) #17727
USS Gudgeon SS-567 DFA Sub #12559
USS Gurke DD-783 #19055
USS Gurnard SSN-662 #10892
USS Hamlin AV-15 (Incl. Hq Sq. FAW-1, WWII) #20585
USS Hammerberg DE-1015 #10810
USS Harder SS-568 DFA Sub #13278
USS Harry F Bauer DM-26 #14511
USS Hart DD-594 #10906
USS Hawkins DD/DDR-873 #17949
USS Henrico APA-45 #17584
USS Hinsdale APA-120 (Incl Mar, WWII) #10596
USS Hobson DD-464/DMS-26 #19586
USS Holland AS-3 (WWII) #18122
USS Holt DE-706 #17652
USS Hutchins DD-476 Assn. #18356
USS Hyperion AK-107 (WWII) #18350
USS Ingersoll DD-652/990 #17572
USS Ingraham DD-694/FFG-61 #11203
USS Intensity (Incl. CG) #22395
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USS Izard DD-589 #21163
USS Jeffers DD-621/DMS-27 #17721
USS J Fred Talbott DD-156/AG-81 #18672
USS John D. Henley DD-553 #18629
USS Johnston DD-821 #10758
USS John W. Thomason DD-760 #18505
USS Juneau Assn CL-52/CLAA-119/LPD-10 #21777
USS Jupiter AVS-8 #23126
USS Kamehameha SSBN-642 #18960
USS Kankakee AO-39 #18060
USS Kenmore AP-162/AK-221 (PTO, WWII) #13160
USS Kennebago AO-81 (WWII) #17775
USS Kenneth D. Bailey DD-713 #13053
USS Laning DE-159/APD-55 #22694
USS Lark AM-21/ATO-168 #13734
USS Lassen AE-3 #12024
USS Lejeune AP-74 #18630
USS Leonis AKA-128 #10768
USS Lexington CV-2 Club #18112
USS Little DD-803 #13368
USS Livermore DD-429 #18839
USS Logan APA-196 (WWII/Korea) #14611
USS Long Island CVE-1/VS-201 #18174
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USS Lowry DD-770 #23044
USS Lumen AKA-30 #19365
USS Luzon ARG-2 (All Years) #18268
USS Lynde McCormick DDG-8 (62-66) #11528
USS Lyon AP-71 #17948
USS MacDonough DLG-8/DDG-39 #19438
USS Macomb DD-458/DMS-23 (WWII) #13119
USS Maddox DD-731/622/168 #17411
USS Mahan DD-364/DLG-11/DDG-42/DDG-72 Assn. #18312
USS Manila Bay CVE-61/VC-71 (WWII) #18646
USS Marias AO-57 #21430
USS Mark AKL-12/USS Brule AKL-28 (VN) #17618
USS Mauna Kea AE-22 (VN) #19773
USS Mauna Loa AE-8 #19284
USS Milwaukee CL-5 #10003
USS Mindanao ARG-3 (WWII) #17603
USS Mississippi BB-41 "Mighty Missy Alumni Assn" #22735
USS Mizar AF-12 (WWII) #18253
USS Montague AKA-98 (WWII) #19668
USS Monterey CVL-26, CAG-28/30/34, VF-Vt #19958
USS Mount Baker AE-4 (48-53) #20485
USS Mount Olympus AGC-8 #21912
USS Mountrail APA-213 #14388
USS Mt McKinley/Mt Olympus AGC-7/8 (AGC Flagship Alliance) #22469
USS Mulberry AN-27 #19687
USS Munising PC-1228 #17619
USS Myles C Fox DD-829 #13112
USS Nantahala AO-60 #11345
USS New Kent APA-217 (WWII/Korea) #14943
USS New Orleans CA-32 (All Hands, 1934/46) #18045
USS Newport News CA-148 (Officers) #22468
USS Nicholson DD-442 (WWII) #22519
USS Nitro AE-23 #14668
USS Northampton CA-26/CLC-1/CC-1 (30-70) #18301
USS Oakhill LSD-7 #19534
USS Ocklawaha AO-84 #18908
USS Oconto APA-187 #11648
USS Oglala ARG-1 #19237
USS Okaloosa APA-219 (All Years) #13582
USS Oklahoma BB-37 Assn. #17830
USS Patoka AO-9 #18519
USS Pawcatuck AO-108 #11625
USS Payette County LST-1079 #19185
USS Pelias AS-14 #21397
USS Perkins DD/DDR-877, DD-377, DD-26 #10607
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USS Pocono/Biscayne AGC-16/18 (AGC Flagship Alliance) #10795
USS Pompon SS/SSR-267 #21234
USS President Monroe AP-104 (WWII/VN) #19087
USS Princeton CV-37/LPH-5 Assn. Inc. #14689
USS Purdy DD-734 #17965
USS Quincy CA-39 (1936/42) #18546
USS Raby DE/DEC-698 #13447
USS Ranger CV/CVA-61 Assn (57/93) #17742
USS Rapidan AO-18 #18513
USS Renville APA-227 #22306
USS Rich DD/DDE-820/DE-695 #11396
USS Rich DE-695 Survivors Assn. #13711
USS Roanoke CL-145 #11418
USS Robert I. Paine DE-578 #19268
USS Roe DD-418 #10097
USS Rowe DD-564 #14396
USS Rupertus DD-851 #13635
USS Salamaua CVE-96 (Incl Sq's VC-70/87) #18471
USS Salamonie AO-26 #19838
USS Samuel S Miles DE-183 #17961
USS San Diego CLAA-53 #22464
USS San Marcos LSD-25 #18911
USS San Pablo Assn. #22038
USS Santee CVE-29 Assn (WWII) #13496
USS Saufley DD-465 #19618
USS Saufley EDDE-465 (All Eras) #17417
USS Saury SS-189 (WWII) #10044
USS Sebec AO-87 #12604
USS Selfridge DD-357 #18593
USS Sequatchie AOG-21 #17757
USS Shadwell LSD-15 #13221
USS Shaw DD-373 #18544
USS Shea DM-30 #10309
USS Shelton DD-790 #10477
USS Skate SSN-578 #11487
USS Smalley DD-565 (WWII/Korea) #17959
USS Smith DD-378 #18355
USS Snowden DE-246 (43-69) #30076
USS Soley DD-707 Assn. (All Years) #18530
USS Somers DD-381 (WWII) #18189
USS Springfield Assn. CL-66/CLG-7/SSN-761 (Incl. Mar.) #19599
USS Steinaker DDR/DD-863 #19636
USS Stockton DD-646 #18241
USS Storm King APA-171 #21963
USS Summit County LST-1146 #19203
USS Swearer DE-186 #17458
USS Talbot DEG/FFG-4 #14604
USS Tallahatchie County LST-1154/AVG-2 #14378
USS Tang SS-563 DFA Sub #13281
USS Tanner AGS-15/USS Pamina AKA-34 #14427
USS Tarazed AF-13 #19397
USS Thomas E. Fraser DM-24 #13284
USS Thomason DE-203 #18297
USS Ticonderoga CV/CVA/CVS-14/CG-47 Assn. #17791
USS Titania AKA-13 #17736
USS Token AM-126 (WWII) #20252
USS Tolovana AO-64 #19043
USS Tombigbee AOG-11/USS Genessee AOG-8 #11919
USS Trever DD-339 #10726
USS Trigger SS-564 DFA Sub #13280
USS Trout SS-566 DFA Sub #13279
USS Truckee AO-147 Plankowners Assn. #11301
USS/USCGC Lansing DE/DER-388/WDE-488 #17025
USS Uvalde AKA-88 (1944/68) #18396
USS Vulcan AR-5 (1948/52) #12681
USS Wadleigh DD-689 Assn. (43-63) #13882
USS Wahoo SS-565 DFA Sub #13282
USS Wake Island CVE-65 #19702
USS Wallace L. Lind DD-703 #11373
USS Watts DD-567 #19631
USS Westchester County LST-1167 #19706
USS Whitehurst DE-634 #18367
USS White Marsh LSD-8 (52/54) #13557
USS Whitney AD-4 #22631
USS Willard Keith DD-775 (1944-49) #22302
USS Wm D Porter DD-579 #12143
USS Worland PCE-845 #12140
USS Wrangell AE-12 Assn (WWII/Korea/VN/Med) #21917
USS Wren DD-568 (1944/63) #11223
USS Wyffels DE-6 #21990
USS Wyman DE-38 #10971
USS Xanthus AR-19 #18262
USS Yarnall DD-541 (1943/55) #18444
USS Yorktown Engineers CV/CVA/CVS-10 (Incl Mar 58-63) #21623
USS Yosemite AD-19 Assn #17709
USS Young DD-580 (WWII) #12145
USS Zeal AM-131 Assn.(WWII/Korea) #10683
VAH-1 #22480
VB/VPB-144 (WWII) #22742
VC-41 Sq #21138
VC-42 (WWII) #17319
VC-61 Photo Sq. (1949/54) #21214
VC-6 Navy Sq (WWII) #13251
VF-53/VF-141 "Iron Angels" #18656
VF/VA-174, "Hellrazors" #21829
VP-28/VPHL-8 Ptl Sq 28, PB4Y-2 Privateers only (1947-53) #19217
VP-881/882/883 #17596
VPB-25 (WWII) #22144
VP/VPB-18 (WWII) #17874
VR-21 (All Years) #22641
VR-23 (All Hands, Japan 50-54) #14446
VT-13 #13819

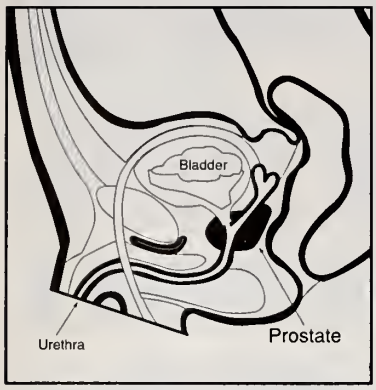
Air Force

2nd Avn. Fld. Depot Sq. (1951/54) #14037
3rd Avn Fld Depot Sq (51-53) #11664
7th AF, 41st Bomb Grp., 820th Bomb Sq. (WWII) #13462
7th Air Div, 3910th Bomb Grp (Eng, 50-53) #10110
11th Bomb Wing, 26th Bomb Sq. (Altus AFB, OK '57/68) #11673
11th Postal Sq (Okinawa 55-57) #22422
12th Tac Ftr Wing, 391st/557th-559th Sqs (VN) #12779
20th AF, 73rd Bomb Wing B-29 Grps. & Assgn. Units (Saipan WWII) #17001
22nd Rescue Boat Sq (Korea) #22463
29th Bomb Grp. Assn., 314th Bomb Wing #15031
36th Air Police Sq (Ger, 48/53) #12504
37th Hq. Sq. (Pers. Sect., Phucat AB, VN '67/68) #19944
42nd Bomb Wing (H) #19968
43rd Bomb Grp., 403rd Bomb Sq. #20016
46th/27th TFS (1967/72) #19971
47th Bomb Wing, 85th Bomb Sq. #19965
51st Munitions Maint Sq Assn (Vandenburg AFB/Korea) #19262
56th Ftr Grp (Incl Suport Sqs, 1941-Present) #15072
58th/60th Ftr Intercpt Sq #13127

Please turn page

EUROPEAN DOCTORS PROVE THAT MANY

Prostate Disorders Can Be Corrected Or Prevented



Recently actor Bill Bixby and musician Frank Zappa died of prostate cancer. They were only in their fifties! Doctors say that most men over 60 have some degree of prostate disorder—and it is not unusual for men in their forties and fifties to have minor prostate problems.

Have To Get Up At Night?

Do you have to get up at night to urinate, feel urgency, delay or dribbling at other times? Well, these are the first signs of a prostate disorder. Do you feel pain or discomfort when urinating? If so, the disease may have advanced!

May Cause Impotence!

Until just a few years ago, surgery was the only choice for prostate disease, but it was a horrible one! A sizable percentage of men became impotent as a result, and at best the surgery only postponed the problem for a few years.

The highly touted prescription drug currently available has had limited success. The common side effect is sexual dysfunction—not a welcome alternative.

A Better Solution!

An amazing medical breakthrough has been made in Europe that promises to put an end to many prostate disorders. 38 of Europe's most prominent medical scientists conducted double-blind studies in France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy at 13 hospitals.

The doctors tested an extract from the bark of an African tree on over 600 patients who had various stages of prostate malfunctions.

High Success Rate!

A high percentage of the participants receiving the extract were relieved and astoundingly no side effects were detected. Most men were able to regain their normal sexual functions in a short time.

After the distinctly positive results were published in several leading medical journals, American urologists and medical scientists tested the substance on numerous patients with prostate disorders here in the United States. Their results concurred with those of the European doctors.

> ***"My doctor wanted to operate on me. However, I decided to try Pymoxin first. I'm glad that I did. They eliminated all the problems I was having. You saved me a lot of pain and a big medical bill. Thanks!***
>
> **—D. Goris, Hawaii.**

ATTENTION DOCTORS: The research data that substantiates the effects of this formula is available to all licensed medical professionals. Just send the request on your letterhead. It will be sent to you by return mail at no charge.

ATTENTION PATIENTS: Please consult your healthcare practitioner if you are experiencing symptoms of prostate illness.

Sidney L. Snow, M.D., a Urologist, says, "An astonishing 80% of men will eventually get a prostate disorder. Prevention is the key. For many patients I see in my practice, the Serenoa contained in Pymoxin has led to significant improvements in nocturnal frequency, urgency, and even to some extent, potency functions."

No Prescription Necessary!

The fact that this powerful extract produces no side effects is remarkable especially in light of the fact that all surgical techniques and current drugs do. This substance does not require a prescription, is inexpensive and is now available in the United States.

Prevention Is Possible!

Up until the 1950's, the percentage of men afflicted with prostate problems was nearly 50% less than it is in the 1990's.

Scientists believe that one cause is the lack of a particular mineral which we normally get from several vegetables. The prostate needs 10 times more of this mineral than any other organ in the body.

The problem is that vegetables today have very low levels of that mineral because chemical fertilizers do not replace it in the soil. Prior to the 1950's, organic fertilizers were more commonly used which replaced the mineral keeping prostate disorders at bay for greater numbers of men.

In Japan, where farmers refuse to use chemical fertilizers, men have 85% less prostate problems than men in the U.S.

Many scientists have proven in rigid double-blind clinical tests that supplementing your diet with that mineral and the bark extract mentioned earlier can reverse many prostate problems and prevent the progression of others.

An American company is now making this new european formula called Pymoxin. Every man over 40 should be taking it daily to help prevent this awful disease. Those who are already suffering should act immediately.

Try Pymoxin Without Risk for 21 Days

And you'll save 25% to 55% for a limited time on this introductory offer. If you are not pleased, just return the unused portion within 30 days for a full refund.

A 30-day supply is regularly $39.95, now $29.95; 60-day supply, reg. $69.95, now $49.95; 120-day supply, reg. $129.95, now $89.95; and 180-day supply, reg. $149.95, now $109.95.

Call toll-free anytime, **1-800-406-1307, ask for Ext. SG132**, or mail your order to: S & G Labs, 892 E. William Street, Dept. SG132, Carson City, NV 89701. Add $4.00 for shipping and handling.

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90th Bomb Sq "Paradice" (Korea, '52/55) #19578
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98th Air Refueling Sq. #19935
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1095th Sp Rept Sq (Bossier AFB) #22922
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3558th Combat Crew Trng. Sq. (CCTS) 1953-61 #13952
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Air Weather Recon. Assn. #12385
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Charleston AF Station, ME (All Years) #14919
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Goodfellow Field Medics (WWII) #20071
Landsberger Grp. #19966
MISAWA (54-56) #19372
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Pilot Trng Class 56-U #22492
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RAF Station Manston (All Units) #13767
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5th AF, 71st Tac Recon Grp, 17/82/110th Recon & 25th Liason Sqs #22045
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8th AF, 446th Bomb Grp(H) Assn (WWII) #16991
9th A/F, 394th Bomb Grp., 584th Bomb Sq. (WWII) #16831
9th AF, 896th Sig Avn Depot Co (WWII) #10688
9th AF, 9th TC Cmd, 315th TC Grp (WWII) #16864
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13th AF, 13th Airdrome Sq. #10898
13th AF, 29th Air Serv. Grp. (1941-48) #16754
13th AF, 42 Bomb Grp, 75 Bomb Sq (B-25, Solomons/PI, WWII) #20882
13th AF, 5th Bomb Grp.(H), 868th Bomb. Sq., "The Snoopers" (WWII) #16935
13th AF Veterans Assn. (All 13th AF Vets invited) #22748
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474th Ftr Grp, 429th Ftr Sq (WWII) #20805
483rd Bomb Grp(H) Assn (Italy, WWII) #14871
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506th Ftr Grp (Iwo Jima, WWII) #11200
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1st Mar., 3rd Bn., Mike Co. (VN, '65/71) #12554
1st Mar Div, 1st Arm'd Amphib Trac Bn (WWII) #20321
1st Mar Div, 1st Rgt, 1st Bn, B Cc, "Battle of Bunker Hill" (1952) #19771
1st Mar Div, 1st Rgt, 1st Bn, C Co (WWII) #21297
1st Mar. Div., 5th Rgt., 3rd Bn., H Co. (Pusan-Chosin 1950) #13405
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1st Mar. Raider Bn. "Edson's Raiders" #17154
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2nd Mar Div, 2nd Med Bn, D Co (WWII) #23075
3rd Mar Div, 11th Engr Bn #17231
3rd Mar Div, 12th Rgt, 4th Bn, M Btry (VN, 66/68) #19821
3rd MAW, VMSB 343 (WWII) #22430
3rd Recon Bn, D Co (VN, 65-69) #19117
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4th Mar Div, 23rd Rgt, F Co #10300
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5th Field/Serv. Depots "5th Fielders" (Guam, WWII) #12419
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5th Mar Div, 27th Rgt, 1st Bn, Hq Co, 81mm Pltn (Iwo Jima WWII) #17093
5th Mar Div, 28th Rgt, 1st Bn, C Co (Iwo Jima, 45) #22894
7th Mar Div, 3rd Bn, I Co. (Korea/VN) #17145
Basic School Class 2-56 (Mar.-Sept. 1956) #21553
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Carrier Div 27/Serv Det 1/CVS VMT 8-233 #22493
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Nat'l Shooting Sq. Members (USMC Reserves, Camp Perry, OH) #21334
The Distinguished Flying Cross Society #21097
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Vietnam Helicopter Pilots, Aircrew, & Support Personnel #13932
VMF/VMA-311 (WWII/Korea/VN) #10088
VMSB-142 (WWII) #18952

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Caribbean Patrol (USCGC Marion #145, USCGC Vigilante #154, '41/45) #19692
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LST-26 (WWII) #10143
LST-67 #13684
USCG Bibb/Campbell WAGC 31/32 (AGC Flagship Alliance) #22470
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USCGC Campbell W-32/WMEC-909 (36-82) #17059
USCGC Modoc W-46 (North Atlantic Convoys, 1941-1945) #17036
USCG Ingham/Spencer/Taney WAGC-35/36/37 (AGC Flagship Alliance) #22471
USS Adm C F Hughes AP-124 (WWII/VN) #13491
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USS Adm H T Mayo AP-125 (WWII/VN) #13489
USS Adm W L Capps AP-121 (WWII/VN) #13175
USS Coos Bay AVP-25, CG Cutter W-376 (Navy & CG) #11590
USS General Hugh L. Scott AP-136 (WWII) #10099
USS Glendale PF-36 (1943/45) #17031
USS Orange PF-43 #12803

Merchant Marine

Merchant Marine Veterans (WWII) #12278

Miscellaneous

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor (Nat'l Assn.) #13480
AP Transport Reunion Group #18620
Augusta Military Academy (Ft.Defiance, VA) #21401
CBI Veterans Assn (All Branches, WWII) #17256
Dakota Bull Session #21683
HMCS Ontario (Royal Canadian Navy) #22486
MAC Flight Crews (VN) #22438
Nagoya/Komaki Air Base (45-59) #22760
NESEP/MECEP Graduates (All Years) #19993
NHA/CHA/Makalapa Brats (Honolulu, 46-50) #22458
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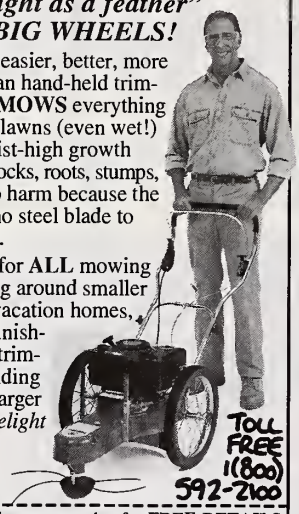

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SHE SERVED, TOO

Continued from page 21

number of female veterans and made little, if any, outreach effort. This kept female veterans from taking advantage of benefits they had earned. The women, meanwhile—conditioned to see themselves as helpers or apprentices—didn't want to clog up a system designed to benefit the "real" veterans.

It didn't help matters that when women tried to join veterans' organizations, they were often denied membership or welcomed with something less than open arms. Rosemary Mariner's mother, 74-year-old Connie Merims, a WWII Navy nurse, remembers being rejected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) because she was a woman. To its credit, The American Legion has always allowed women veterans to be members, even before women were granted the right to vote.

Although the VFW opened its doors to female members following a 1980s court battle, such formal changes in policy have not always eradicated the discrimination or quelled the unease women felt at joining veterans' organizations. Susan Kieffer, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, says her brother signed her up as a member of the VFW just last year. But because Kieffer didn't serve in a war zone, she could only be an auxiliary member.

Her reaction? "I thought, 'My God! Are you kidding? I achieved O-5 status! I am *not* going to be an auxiliary member.' "

Overall, she says, many veterans' service organizations tend to be "very male-oriented. If you walk into one of these clubs, they always assume you are one of the wives called to do the decorating or the cooking.... All those *women's* things. That really irritates me."

The name "Frontiero" may mean nothing to you, but if you're a woman in the service, it has meant everything.

Historically, one of the servicewoman's biggest battles has been to maintain both a family and a career, something the serviceman has always been able to do. In attempting this, however, women ran up against the biased language of entitlement policy. The policy said that if the family was dependent upon a service*man* for more than half its support, the family was eligible for dependency allowances—but the husbands and children of service*women* were excluded.

Enter Sharron Frontiero, a married, 23-year-old Air Force lieutenant. Although married male officers were entitled to on-base family housing, Frontiero was forced to pay for her own housing off-base. Nor was her husband entitled to the same medical care that was available to the wives of enlisted men. For all intents and purposes, she might have been single. She filed a lawsuit alleging sexual discrimination. Her case, *Frontiero v. Richardson,* made it to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973, where the court ruled the customary policies unconstitutional.

In a small gesture with huge symbolic meaning, DoD took the word "wife" out of all policy language and replaced it with "spouse."

"The Frontiero case was the landmark decision for everything having to do with family policy in the military," says Holm. "It was the definite turning point for women to lead normal family lives as members of the armed forces."

Combined with the political climate surrounding the Equal Rights Amendment and the abolition of the draft, the case gave women the impetus they needed to begin evening the score.

"It was a period when [the armed forces] were actually accepting women," says Carolyn Prevatte, the executive director of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Military (DACOWITS), which now tackles issues such as day care, affordable housing, domestic violence and eating disorders resulting from weight/height standards. Continues Prevatte, "It was a time when we did away with WACs, WAVES...and opened up aviation. We started putting women in the airfields and on naval ships."

With an all-volunteer force, the number of servicewomen was growing rapidly. Between 1971 and 1991, the female composition rose from 1 to 11 percent. "It sounded like fun," says Kieffer, explaining her reasons for joining. Just one of the many female role models who began their careers during the tumultuous 1970s, Keiffer recalls the period as an exciting time for a woman to be in the military.

Through the '70s, women continued to win victories—even though some of them amounted to less than meets the eye. In 1976 the Second Circuit Court ruled that the discharge of a pregnant woman was a violation of the Fifth Amendment. The branches changed their official pregnancy policies, but unofficially, for a woman to get "in a family way" while in the service

Please turn to page 50

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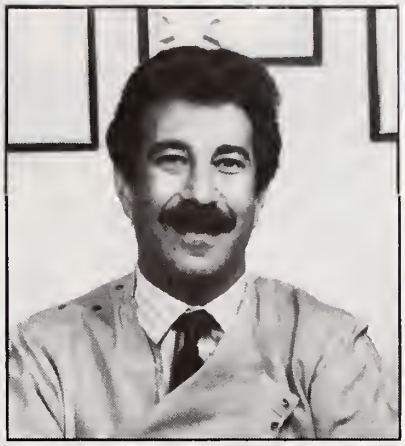

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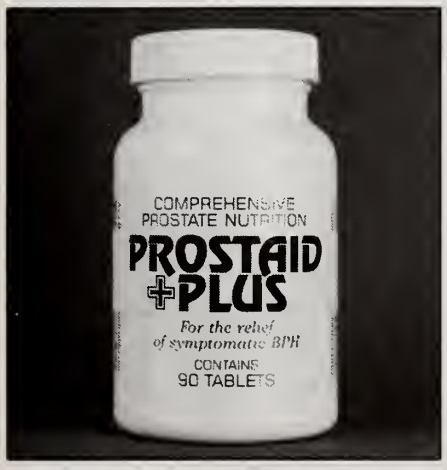

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SHE SERVED, TOO

Continued from page 48

remained taboo.

"It was a big deal," says Mariner, who waited to start her family until after she took a job as professor at the National War College in Washington, D.C.; now, at age 43, she has a 16-month-old girl. "You were ostracized. There was never a good time to get pregnant."

While Mariner notes that pregnancy is no longer viewed "as a career-stopper," it's fairly clear that women still suffer from the perception that their biological capacity for bearing children makes them less reliable soldiers.

In 1994 when the *USS Eisenhower* became the first aircraft carrier with women as crew members, much was made of the 38 pregnant women aboard, even though only 14 of them got pregnant after the cruise began.

Prevatte thinks all the emphasis on the issue is excessive. "I am not convinced how much of an impact pregnancy really has," she says. "There is not more lost time for pregnancy. The pregnancy rates in the military are relatively similar for other women in their same age group." In fact, a recent study by Patricia Thomas at the Naval Personnel Research Development Center in San Diego, Calif., finds that men's and women's absences, including pregnancy and convalescent leave, are almost identical.

Says Korb, now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., "They don't talk about the men who leave for a lot of other reasons. They tell you when women are absent for health reasons. But if men are absent because of drinking—having fun—it's 'boys will be boys.' "

The "boys will be boys" mentality doesn't help women with regard to anti-fraternization policies, either. Written to be gender-neutral, the policies nonetheless have tended to have their most serious consequences for women. A March 1995 *Chicago Tribune* article tells the story of a young woman on the *Eisenhower* who was sentenced to three days on bread and water because she "fell in love with another crew member." The man, now her fiancé, was not disciplined.

Which brings us to the most publicized (if not necessarily the most important) issue facing today's military women: sexual harassment.

Contrary to popular belief, sexual harassment is a rather new phenomenon. The term wasn't a part of a servicewoman's vocabulary during World War II, the Korean War or even as recently as the Vietnam War. "We didn't even acknowledge that it existed," says Holm, who served as director of the Women in the Air Force from 1965-72. "Of course it occurred, but I don't ever recall it being a 'problem.' The times were different. We thought differently. Men thought differently."

That thinking had to change after two women blew the whistle on fellow officers for sexual harassment and assault at the notorious 1991 "Tailhook" reunion. DoD took an aggressive look at sexual harassment, and all branches updated or created new policies.

"Tailhook obviously raised sensibility on all levels of our behavior as military people," says DACOWITS' Prevatte. "We're not where we want to be, but we are better than we were."

The most significant result of Tailhook was a change in attitude. "In the wake of Tailhook a lot of people saw that women were being treated as second-class citizens," says Jean Zimmerman, author of the 1995 book, *Tailspin: Women at War in the Wake of Tailhook.* "They realized that without equal responsibility there would never be respect."

The large deployment of women to the Middle East during the Gulf War was a watershed for women's credibility. About 41,000 women went to the Persian Gulf; statistically, the 7 percent figure represented the largest female deployment in U.S. history. Sixteen women died during the war, and two were held as POWs.

WOMEN in the gulf did everything men did except engage in ground combat. (As Mariner puts it: "I can get shot at—I just can't shoot back.")

Despite the policies still keeping women off the frontlines, the war dispelled many myths of the female fighter. "The Gulf War showed very clearly that women were good enough to die," says Mariner, who commanded a Navy squadron during the war. "If you are good enough to die, you are good enough to fight."

In 1991, Congress repealed laws banning women from flight in combat; two years later women were permitted to be deployed on combat ships. And most recently, in 1994, the Army abolished its "risk rule," opening all positions except those having a high probability of exposure to direct enemy fire or physical contact with the enemy.

With all that has changed for women in the military, obstacles remain. Like their counterparts in business and industry, women in service often complain of a "glass ceiling" that limits their ascent through the ranks. It's never in black and white, but it's there, some believe.

Even though 99 percent of positions in the armed forces are now open to women, few women rise to high ranks. Only 3.1 percent of one- or two-star generals and only 15.1 percent of lieutenant colonel and colonels are women, according to DoD figures from October 1995.

"Women find that somewhere along the pathway they don't want to continue the struggle," says Vaught, from the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation. "They quit right at the point when they might be eligible for promotion. We lose all those people who could have been selected."

Kieffer, who retired last year, said she hit the glass ceiling and didn't feel like fighting anymore: "It takes a long, long time to change. When I reached 22 years and I knew I wasn't going to get promoted, well, there was no point."

Kieffer was the first and only woman aircraft officer at Charleston AFB in Charleston, S.C., and the highest-ranking female officer at the base when she retired. "I loved my years in the military," she says. "Most of the men were wonderful; they really were. But I do believe there are many, many improvements that can be made. I don't think women get the credit they deserve, and that is much more apparent the higher up you go."

The more positions that are open to women, says Holm, the less discrimination there will be. "As long as women are assumed to be outside the main mission of the military, they will be second-class citizens," she says.

Military women want nothing more than to be treated with respect and have the same opportunities as anyone else. Ultimately, they insist, that means opening all positions to women. Everyone needs to be allowed "to be all they can be as long as they can do the job they are assigned," says Holm.

Likewise Mariner hopes someday if her daughter wishes to pursue a career in the military, her gender will not be a factor. "It is very important to me as a mother that she be able to do what she is capable of doing, that no one put any artificial limits on her." □

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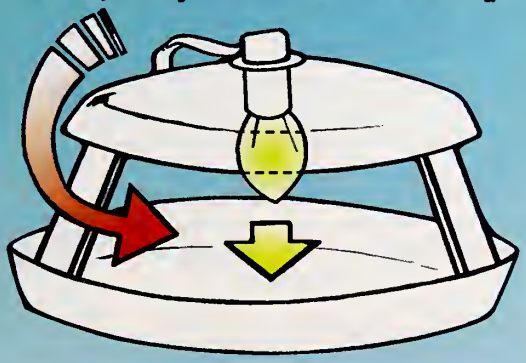

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LIBRARY

Continued from page 23

A. Yes, but we digitized it all, so people in Russia could download it from our feed, even though they couldn't see it in their own country.

Q. If we give access to this type of information to everyone, might it be misused?

A. There is always a danger information might be misused. But it's worth the risk. Truth has a better chance of emerging from a free, open marketplace of ideas than in a restrictive atmosphere.

The open permissiveness of the Internet allows for a lot of things like pornography and sheer junk that would best be omitted. Our job is to set standards of quality control for what we deliver and help people navigate through this sea of information.

Hopefully, they will make good choices and use the Internet for knowledge, and in turn use that knowledge for good. But we can't guarantee that's how they will use the Internet.

Q. What kind of information would a student of American military history find on the Internet?

A. We have the papers of 23 Presidents, many of whom like Washington were military leaders. But we also have other figures—John Pershing, General Patton, General "Hap" Arnold, Andrew Jackson. And we have the POW/MIA file on the Internet, with more than 20,000 documents.

Q. Being on the Internet certainly makes computer owners happy, but people visiting the library no longer can wander through the book stacks. Why did you close the book stacks to the general public in 1992?

A. Closing the stacks was very painful for me as a practicing scholar, and I sympathize with other scholars. But by closing the stacks, it prevented theft and damage, which was quite considerable, particularly as the market grew for plates and maps ripped out of old books. This was happening with shocking regularity. Now, instead of people wandering through the stacks, the books are delivered to them. Incidentally, it isn't just the public that is denied access. Of the library's 4,200 employees, only 400 have book-stack passes.

Q. Is this a common problem with libraries?

A. They are not only pillaging the Library of Congress, but all libraries. We've increased our security, installed video cameras and theft-detection gates. But it's still a problem, especially when someone rips out individual pages and stuffs them in his pants.

Q. How do you think visitors from a foreign country would react to this beefed-up security? What does it say about the state of our own nation?

A. I think their first reactions would be how much more open and free our library is—even with the increased security—than their own libraries, which people with academic credentials can't use, or only can use with great difficulty.

Q. I heard you exploded when you heard about the thefts.

A. I happen to care quite deeply about how our nation preserves its past, chronicles its present and prepares for its future. The Library of Congress must play a role in this process.

Are we going to preserve and transmit this still-unused repository of this nation's creativity and knowledge to our children and grandchildren?

I have eight grandchildren now. I'm an old teacher at heart, and while sitting and reading to them, I worry if the country really understands the greatness of what it has or, if we just take it for granted. □

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Dorothy S. Andrews,IA Department Vice Commander (1985-86), Department Commander (1987-88).
William A. McKay,NY Department Vice Commander (1970-71).

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1st Tactical Depot Sq. John R. Berryman needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at RAF Sculthorpe-USAF Base, England, Oct. 15, 1954, he was handling Mark 5's and U235 nuclear weapons. Contact CID 1328.

630th Light Equip. Co. Raymond McGirt needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky.,during1947-49, that he injured his back while jumping off a motor grader in 1948. Contact CID 1329.

PHANTOM PAIN

Continued from page 25

I would talk about the war, and what had happened in those years. He told stories of how my uncle was shot down, about people he saw injured as well as comical tales of his friends. He told me what it was like then in Hawaii, where he worked for a veterans' organization and how he met my mom. He told me things he had never told anyone else, because *I listened.* Manchester had helped me understand.

Then one day, at long last, he told me the story of his lost leg. Simply, without details or noticeable anguish, he told me of the accident on a field far from any battle. He had been the victim of someone else's negligence with a rifle, thus his red badge of courage held no glory. I knew from my reading that there were so-called "million dollar wounds," wounds that would heal but sent their bearer home—or at least, away from the action. On rare occasions, they were self-inflicted, ultimately preserving the body at a great psychological and social price. Perhaps, these were wounds of the soul.

My father bore something undeservedly akin to this, through no fault of his own. Because of it, he could never measure up to those who were wounded in battle, and he could never be sure who would misinterpret his fate. His honorable discharge and the pictures of the generals visiting his bedside were tokens of proof of his innocence. Alas, nothing could ever prove to him that he was a good-enough hero.

I came to see that always in his mind were the memories of the faces and the voices of his brothers-in-arms who went on without him to Africa. There, his unit suffered casualties of 90 percent. He never forgot the statistics, the odds that were against him in his parallel life of a different destiny. He felt he should have been with them—even if it meant not being at all.

An entire generation silently remembered the ones they left behind on similar symbolic shores. All the heroics in the world wouldn't return them. All that could be done was to remember, hold tight to the future and pass on the mystery of life to your children.

With gratitude, I understood.

All these things went through my mind that day at Arlington. In a dis-

Please turn to page 54

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FISHER HOUSES

Continued from page 27

their suites. The large, airy kitchens, bright dining rooms, and cozy family rooms with fireplaces and stocked bookcases would also help foster interaction among occupants.

Since the opening of the first home, 5,000 military and veterans' families have resided in Fisher Houses. Each year the houses provide more than 140,000 days of lodging where guests can share their fears and draw strength from one another.

Korean War veteran Joe Gaeta, who suffered from throat cancer, is another beneficiary of Fisher House hospitality. Gaeta's daughters learned about Fisher House by calling the Minneapolis VAMC.

"I pray to God and thank Him for the Fishers," says Gaeta. "What great humanitarians. I hope to meet Mr. Fisher one day so I can thank him personally and tell him how much I respect what he's built."

But Fisher does not take the credit for actually building the houses. He quickly credits the people at Rosen Associates Management Corp., who invest the time and effort necessary to plan, design and construct the houses. "And they do it all without a fee," says Fisher.

While the Fishers dodge the limelight and downplay their contributions, their support of military families has received accolades from many fronts.

A year ago, Fisher was invited to the White House, where Bill Clinton presented him with the Presidential Citizens Medal. In 1992, the Fishers were recipients of The American Legion's prestigious National Commander's Public Relations Award for Fisher Houses and their long-time support of America's veterans and members of the armed forces.

In dedicating the first Fisher House at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., in 1991, then-President George Bush said of the Fishers: "Elizabeth and Zach are brilliant points of light. They saw a need and they moved in to fill it. They didn't wait for Congress; they didn't wait for a study or committee hearing. They saw a problem, moved in, and solved it."

The Fishers, indeed, build much more than houses. They build hope, they build compassion, they build love of fellow man. □

PHANTOM PAIN

Continued from page 52

torted, suspended sense of time, I watched the honor guard approach, surround and lift up my father's flag-draped coffin. They carried him off, in measured beat, back to find the lost part of himself in the great mysteries of the hereafter, and I watched in awe of the appropriateness, the healing, the terrible sublime perfection of the ceremony. □

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

Ray D. Foskey, Howard Foskey, Richard Smith (1995) Post19, Laurel, DE
John P. Baldwin, George McLean (1995) Post 333, Key Largo, FL
Daniel Santieu (1987), Marshal Squire (1988), Jim Chasm (1990), Dick Bailey, Andrew Medema (1991), Bert Bates, Sam Lugo (1992), Bill Ralston (1993), Mike DiLallo (1994), Oliver Aschenbrenner, Rudolph Martino, Clyde Yount, Russell Zanghi (1995) Post 187, Elmhurst, IL
Carl W. Nunley (1969), Donald L. Hardig, William C. McRae (1974), Louis E. Linn (1975), Carl E. Irvin (1982), William E. Helpingstine, Issac A. Mize (1988), Thomas D. Lowe, Bayard J. Lytton (1989), C. Earl Miller (1990), Wilfred J. Kocher (1991), Robert Kaiser (1995) Post 73, Vincennes, IN
Charles Ganster (1987) Post 187, Elmhurst, Il
David R. Bash, Joseph L. Bernzweig, J.L. Brown Jr., William D. Chester, Francis G. Dillon, David G. Dumeyer, William L. Evans Jr., Jack L. Freeman, Calvin A. Gibson, Charles E. Harrall, Paul J. Hubbuch, William L. Karp Sr. (1995) Post 201, Louisville, KY
Richard C. Rathburn (1996) Post 347, Warren, MI
Paul Attridge, Sidney R. Hanson (1995) Post 87, Alexandria, MN
Donald Navratil (1995) Post 141, Silver Lake, MN
James L. Adams, Bernard Grubich, Robert Jenson Jr., Harvey P. Johnson, Leonard A. Johnson, George Merz, Mike Petrie, James Sampson, Charles G. Svobodny, Leroy Teeuwen (1995) Post 310, Minneapolis, MN
Ken C. Heberling (1996) Post 20, Dillon, MT
M.R. Menscer Sr. (1995) Post 16, Newton, NC
Keith W. Griese (1995) Post 87, Dansville, NY
Charles H. Bowman, William E. Duggan Jr., Joseph Hendrzak, George S. Miller Sr., Salvatore V. Murabito Sr., Peter W. Siematkowski (1995) Post 377, Goshen, NY
Edward Hajec, John Massa (1995) Post 625, Utica, NY
John A. Crifasi, John S. McCumiskey Jr., Robert Schatz (1995) Post 1246, Oceanside, NY
Alfred H. Mason, William C. McElroy, William F. Spina, Joseph Tersago, Charles V. Wood (1995) Post 1308, Pine Bush, NY
Donald N. Kimmel, Norman Merkey (1995) Post 1328, Rochester, NY
Walter H. Berry, Arnold W. Johnson (1995) Post 1582, Canaseraga, NY
Larry D. Saures Sr. (1990), Jack E. Yocum (1992), Wilbur W. Buck, Carl A. Buck Sr., Charles E. Gulliver, Ray H. Knouse, Raymond E. Rodgers (1994), David T. Dewalt, Robert Eder Sr., Thomas W. Fogleman, Thomas E. Kuntz, Thomas A. LaForme Jr., William T. Rupert, A. Earl Shaner (1995) Post 251, Montgomery, PA
Paul H. Bacon, Wayne Feehrer, Ben C. Morrow, Harry Osment, Michael N. Walker, C. Austin Watson (1995) Post 81, Cleveland, TN
Leon Waddill (1994), Harrison Gillette, Charles A. Robinson, Tommy Thomson, Robert P. Tripp (1995) Post 42, Gatesville, TX
Sig Lingelbach (1978) Post 300, Gillett, WI

IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a reunion (use VETS® column) or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (use COMRADES IN DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis. If a notice does not appear within six months of submission, please resubmit.

Members of the 24th Inf. Div. Signal Co. , 1941-45, and the Navy encampment on Ferguson Island about 1943, for a book. Contact: Glenn Behends, 211 East 11th St., Monticello, IA 52310; 319-465-5121.
A book titled, "Odyssey of the Quincy." Contact: Charles Wahlers, 3663 Middle Cheshire Rd., Canandaigua, NY 14424; 716-394-6806.
Information about shipmates of LCT-34, Flotilla 10, Group 29, during the invasion of Sicily and Salerno. Contact: William C. Mansfield, 606 Eagle Crest Dr., Brownsburg, IN 46112.
Information on the 255th Inf. Rgt. during WWII. Contact: H.J. Burkhalter, 28 Fleming St., Auburn, NY 13021.
Anyone on the USS Chevalier torpedoed Oct. 7, 1943, off the Solomons, for research. Contact: Maj. William T. Yates, 11 N. Serenity Way, Greenword, IN 46142-8423; 317-889-8064.
Members of the 1st Platoon, Co. A, 63rd Inf., 6th Div., who wish a combat photo taken in Dutch New Guinea. Contact: J.R. Worley, 301 West Brayton Rd., Mt. Morris, IL 61054.
Those who served in the 11th Bn., 12th Rgt., Great Lakes NTS during 1943-45, Contact: Joe Skalko, 1157 Virginia Ave., Bronx, NY 10472.
Crewmembers of USS PCE-874 aboard during Hurrican Hazel off South Carolina in October 1954. Contact: Harry Kalbach, 613 Sherman St. Menlo, IA 50164.
Members of the 22nd Car Co., SHAPE Hqtrs., Paris, France, July 1951-Sept. 1952. Contact: Raymond E. Murray, 83 Maple Ln., St. Paul, MN 55117.
Information about HQ & HQ Btry., 15th FA Bn., June 1947-1952, for historical article. Contact: Jack J. Sullivan, 5316 Benton Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515.
Navy ships' lighters, to be donated to Navy Museum in Washington, D.C. Contact: Robert B. Hunt, 2506 E. Ponderosa Blvd., Post Falls, ID 83854-9676; 208-773-1074.
War-time experiences, stories, anecdotes on the 80th Inf. Div., especially Co. A, 1st Bn., 318th Rgt., in France/Luxembourg/Bulge, 1943-45, for research. Contact: George Rhoads, 2008 Western Rd., Iowa City, IA 52240.
A copy of the Seabee Song published during WWII. Contact: Agnew Reddig, 941 Janet Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601; 717-293-1353.
Berlin Airlift participants, all services, for interviews for a book. Contact: Michael D. Haydock, 169 Fairfield Court, Voorheesville, NY 12186.
Photo of the crew of USS Preston. Will pay. Contact: Al LePage, P.O. Box 546, East Detroit, MI 48021.
Sailors who participated in the photo, "Living Flag of Bluejackets at Salute," taken at Great Lakes. I have copies of the sheet music, "Old Glory Goes Marching On," with the photo on the cover. If you would like a copy, contact: Edward Barton, 856 East 26th St., San Bernardino, CA 92404-4001.
Members of Co. E, 6th Inf., in Berlin in 1957-58, for research. Contact: David Glossenger, RD3, Box 575, Honesdale, PA 18431-9513; 717-253-2955.
Anecdotes, information, photos of WWII Catholic chaplains, particularly from Boston, for research. Contact: Steve O'Brien, 27 Elm St., Plymouth, MA 02360; 508-224-6072.
Former members of HQ Sq., MAG-35, 3rd MAW, Cherry Point, N.C., Oct. 1943-April 1944; Corvallis, Ore., May-June 1944; or at Ewa, Hawaii, after June 1944, for an article. Contact: Ron Lansinger, 307 Overlook Dr., Timonium, MD 21093-2713; 410-252-0337.
Information about the 6811th Signal Det. at Bexley, Kent, England, 1943-45. Contact: Bill Dysart, P.O. Box 6933, Harlowton, MT 59036.
OCS Class 5-63 yearbook , Fort Benning, Ga., and a lost Zippo brush chrome lighter engraved with 10-12 code names beginning with "Falcon." Lighter was lost at Moc Hoa, RVN, January 1970. Contact: James D. Storozuk, 27-15, Urban Pl., Fairlawn, NJ 07410-3109.

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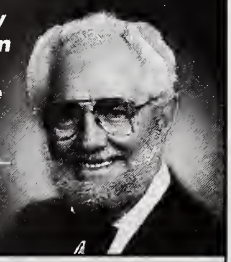

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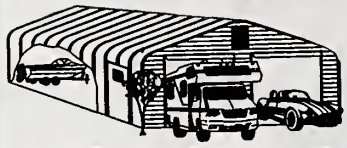

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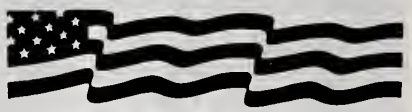

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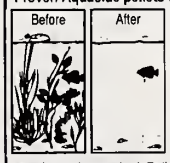

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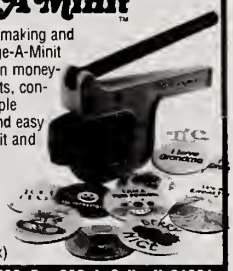

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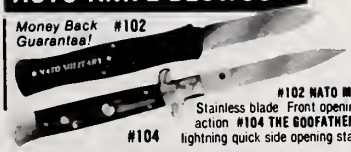

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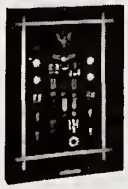

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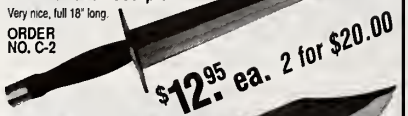

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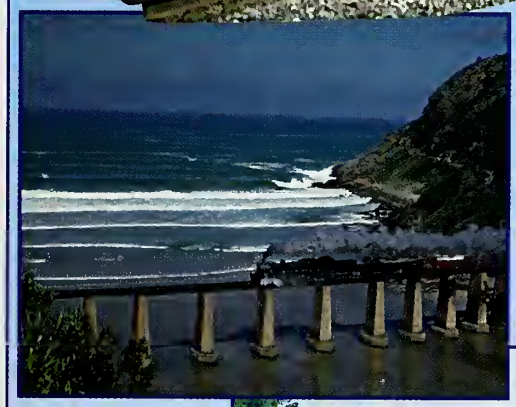

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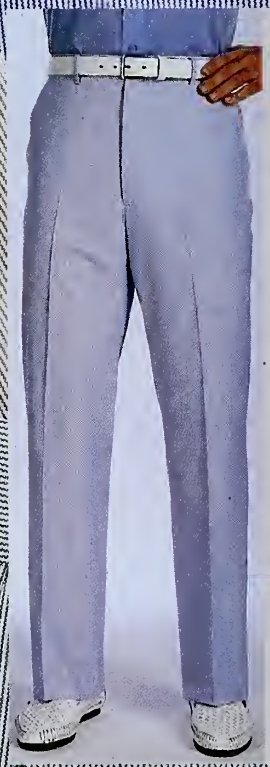

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